S12129

LPA NEWSCLIPS/PHOTOS 1957 – 1966

1957 CHARTER MEMBER DIRECTORY 1963 – MICHAEL DUNN

S12129

R E N O, N E V A D A - 1 9 5 7

"LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA"

Directory of Charter Members

Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Albert, 970 Green Avenue, San Bruno, California

Balluck, Mike, 2214 Coloma Street, Oakland, California

Barty, Billy, 946 N. Normandie Avenue, Hollywood 29, California

Carr, Rocky, 1744 N. Wilcox, Los Angeles, California

Delfino, Mr. & Mrs. Frank, 3584 Landis Street, San Diego 4, California

Dolinajec, Paul, Jr., 314 W. North West Highway, Arlington Heights, Illinois

Hinkson, Robert, Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, Maryland

Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Waino, 236 Arcade Boulevard, North Sacramento 5, California

Kranzler, Emil, 3013 Garfield Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Lange, Hilda, 1027 Santa Fe Avenue, Albany 6, California

Osborne, Stanley, 451 16th Street, Ogden, Utah

Preston, Richard, 177 South 3rd East, American Fork, Utah

Robinson, James, 116 Tasker Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Shelton, Launa, 2121 West Madison, Phoenix, Arizona

Shoemaker, Robert, 309 Ross Street, Antioch, California

Turner, Dan, P. O. Box 1951, Asheville, North Carolina

Williams, Harvey, 2801 Pillsbury Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLOSE-UP

FINE 3′ 10″ ACTOR RELISHES FAME

A Dwarf's Full-Size Success

Once in a while Michael Dunn unexpectedly catches sight of himself in a full-length mirror. "There I am," he says, "a dwarf. It shocks me. I just can't believe it's me. I don't feel like a dwarf inside." Yet it is as a dwarf that Dunn has achieved fame on Broadway in the role of the preening, malicious "broke-back" of *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*. His remarkable performance, which dominates the show, brought him up from a series of minor stage roles and a career as a nightclub baritone.

Dunn, who is 29, was born of normal-sized parents but was dwarfed by a bone disease called achondroplasia. His parents tried to let him live as near normal a life as possible—especially difficult because he had a genius I.Q. of 178. He even used to play football and was an exceptionally accurate passer.

All his life he has relentlessly refused to treat himself as a tragedy and is furious when anybody regards him as a cute freak or calls him "kid." "It bugs me green," he says, "when people assume I am less than human because I'm less than human size." Once a woman took him into her lap and stroked him like a child. He bit her—"because I'm a man," he angrily explained.

Triumphantly, Michael Dunn stands by theater poster of him with show's stars.

"I do have a fairly large ego—it has to be. If I were not totally convinced I'm a superior person, I'd be a very inferior one."

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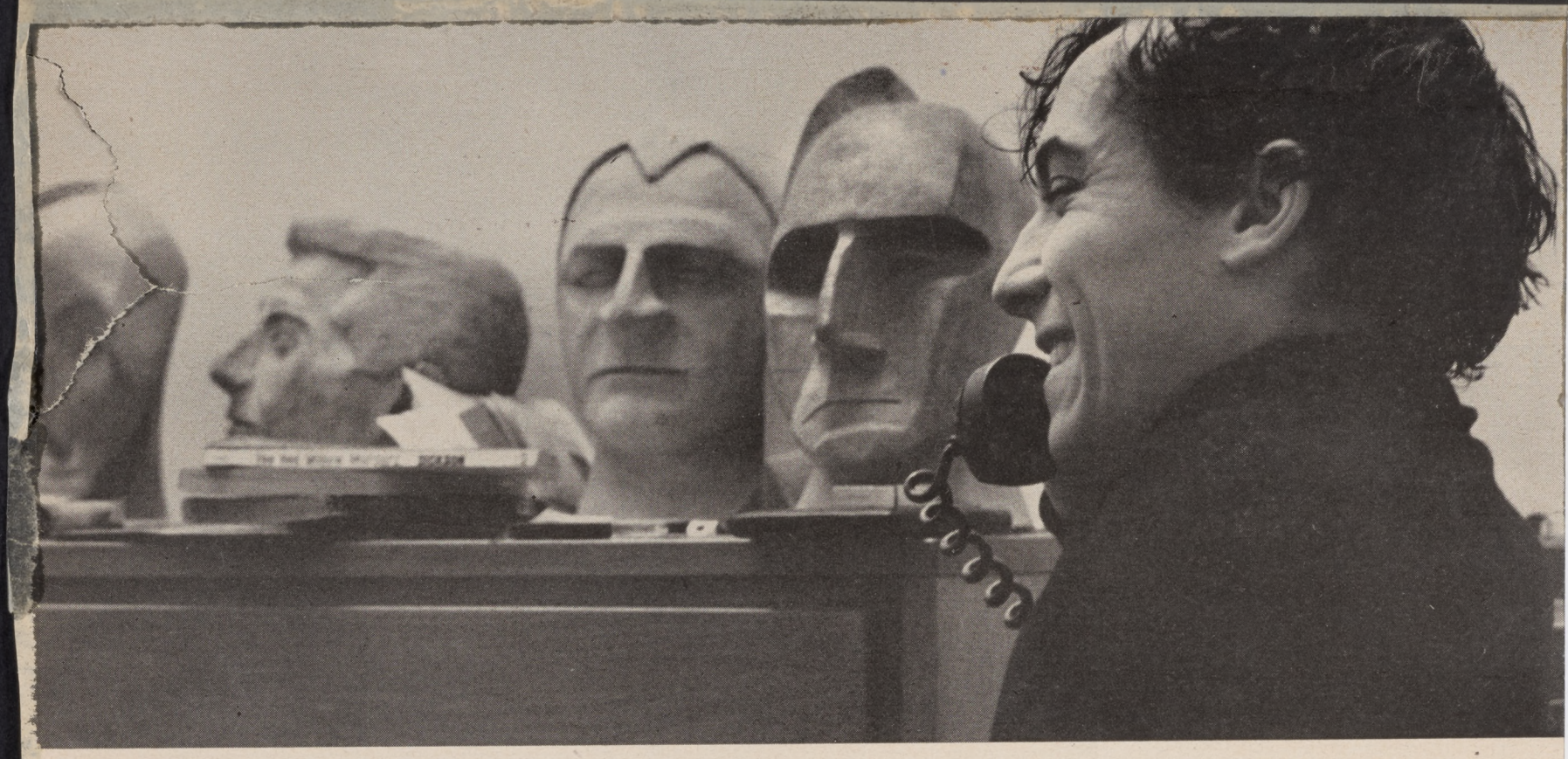
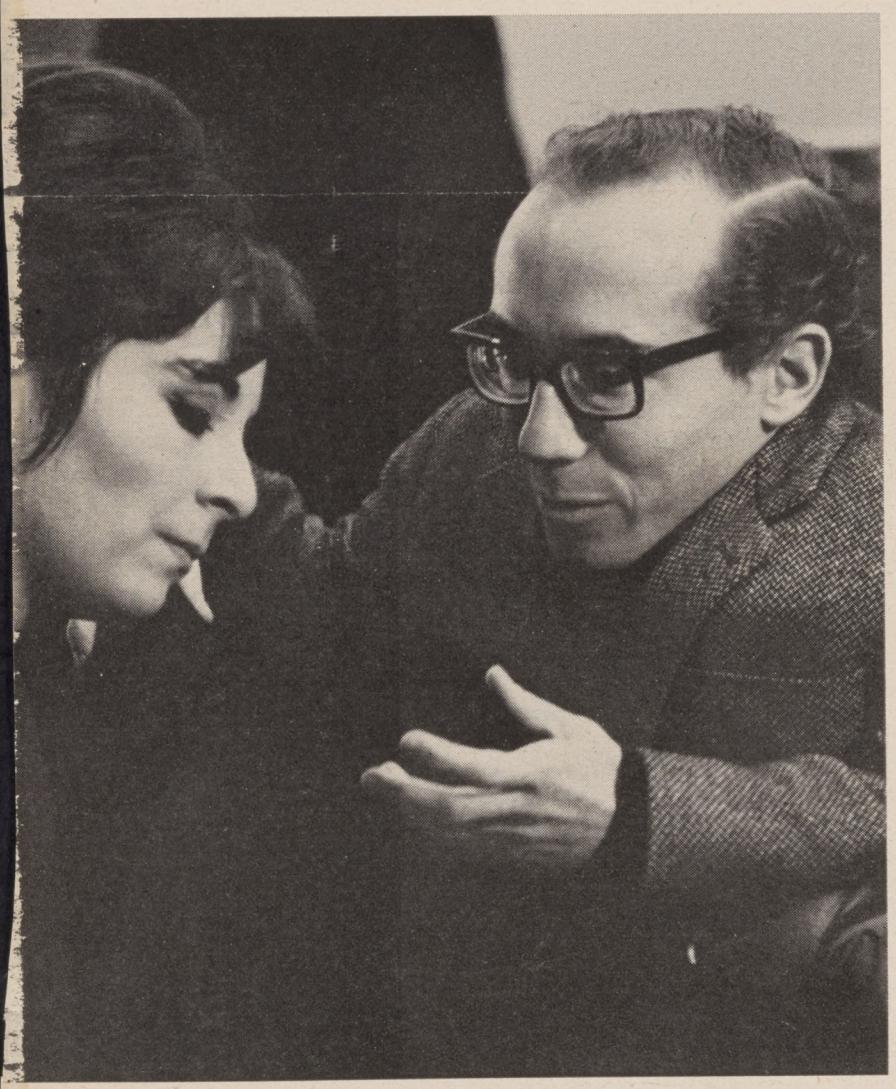
1963



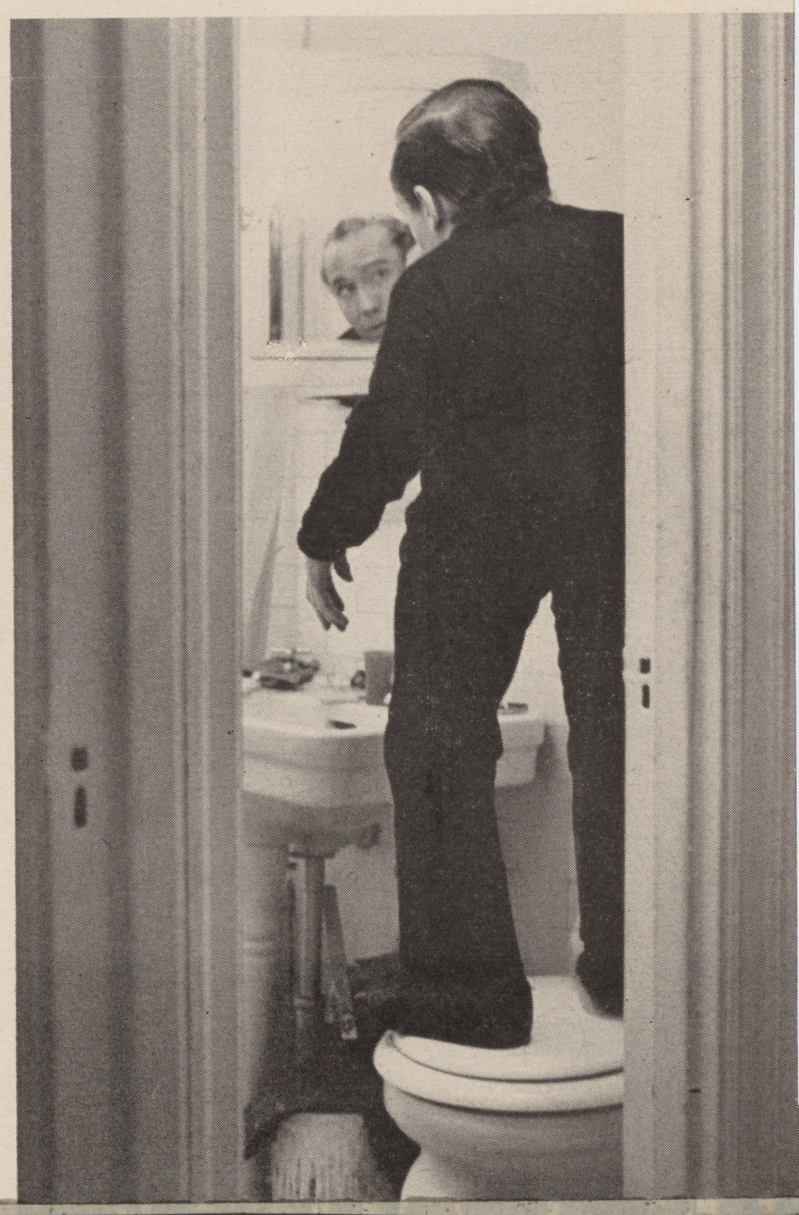
An amateur sculptor who uses friends as models, Dunn is flanked by a convocation of clay heads.

"For a while when I wasn't working I drove everybody crazy, so a friend conned me into sculpting.



At rehearsal of nightclub act which they are preparing, Dunn and Phoebe Dorin discuss song.

"Sometimes when I'm with girls, guys make pretty vicious remarks—and always to the girl. I can handle



In his apartment Dunn climbs on the toilet to comb his hair before the medicine chest mirror.

"There are remarkably few things I can't do in one way or another. I don't try to beat my limitations, just

1963

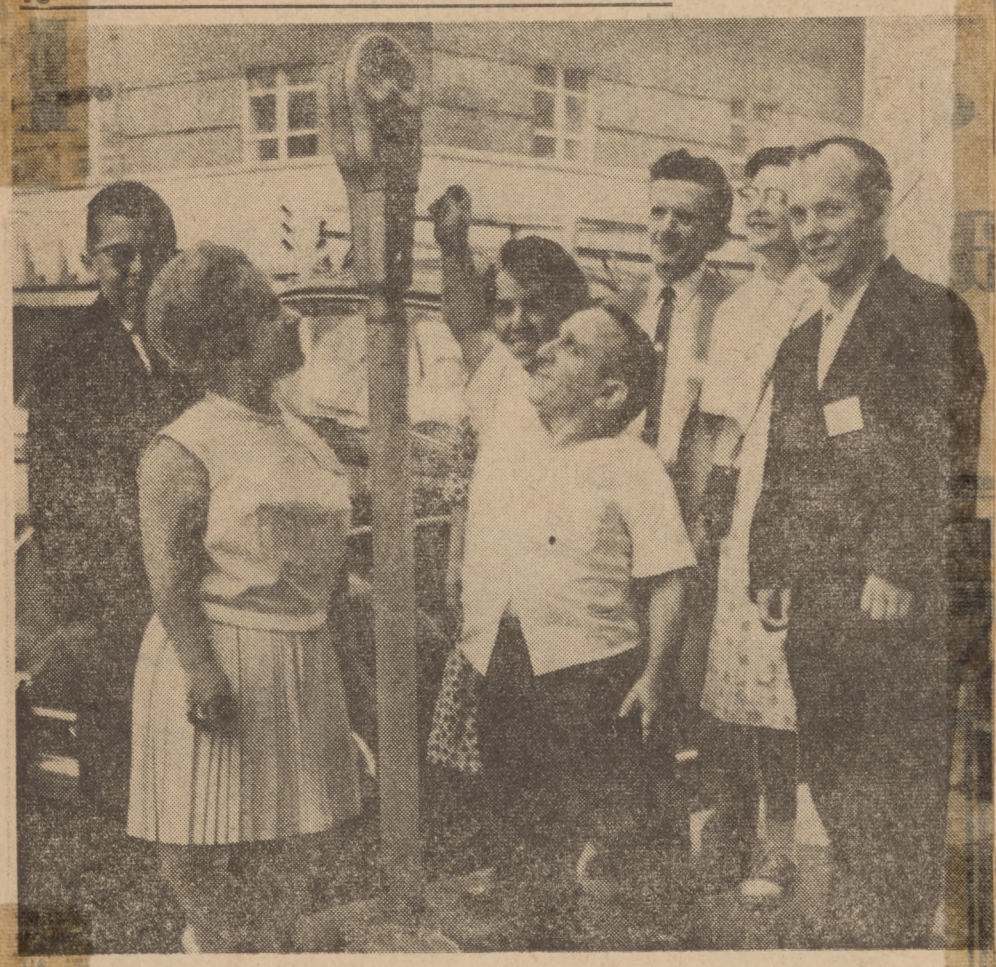
1963

DUNN CONTINUED

At Downey's, an actor's hangout, and home to Dunn for five and more hours a day, he talks across the aisle to British Actor Albert Finney, star of *Tom Jones* and *Luther*.

"*I like Downey's partly because most of the time nobody stares at me when there are 48 other people in the room better known than I. When anybody does sneak a look at me, I take it to mean they recognize me from the show. Whether this is right or not, I pretend it is.*"

10 Sec. B—SUN., AUG. 4, 1963 Los Angeles Times 2★



PARKING PROBLEM—Pat Lytel, New York, tries vainly to put coin in meter as "little people" watch, from left, Lee Landry, New Orleans; Dale Paullin, Marshalltown, Ia.; Selma Grant, Houston; Alfred Mills, Ukiah, Cal.; Martha Whear, Anamosa, Ia.; Robert Fowler, Mason City, Ia. (Lytel got a ticket.) UPI Telephoto

FOOTSTOOLS AND LADDERS

'Little Guys' Share Woes at Convention

DES MOINES, Ia. (UPI)—Step-stools and small ladders were back in the closets here Saturday—the "little people" have gone home.

During the five-day national convention of the Little People of America, 3-ft. ladders and kitchen stools were standard equipment beside drinking fountains, lunch counters and bars.

About 150 midgets and dwarfs wound up their annual meeting Friday with tales of the hard times of the "little guy."

Parking meters presented no end of problems. Many of the little people just coudn't reach high enough to put a coin in the slot.

The result can be exhausting. An overtime parking ticket on the windshield of his car stymied Pat Lytel, 55, New York, for a time. He had to crawl up over the hood of the auto to get the summons.

Sense of Humor Needed

"I often have a heck of a time getting a cup of black coffee in a restaurant," Bill Raecke, Lincoln, Neb., complained. "Most of the waitresses try to give me milk and soda pop."

Raecke, 4 ft. 8 in. tall, has a good sense of humor like most of the little people and enjoys what could be embarrassing incidents—"especially when someone mistakes me for a kid brother of the person I'm with."

The annual convention, supplemented by occasional regional gatherings, is often the only chance some little people have to enjoy social and recreational activities with others of their own stature.

"Where else can a little man be sure of meeting a little woman?" asked 3-ft. 10-in. Mrs. Stella Shelterly, North Platte, Neb.

Still Has to Look Up

"I've dated men that were over 6 ft. tall, and always had a great time, but I think we should marry someone about our own size," she said.

Mrs. Shelterly did. But she still has to "look up" to her husband. He is 4 feet 4 inches tall.

The convention also had its serious side.

Panel and workshop sessions were conducted on facing their peculiar social and employment problems, dating for the little teenager, and how to prepare their "little littles" to grow up in a world of "giants" who are often scornful and unkind.

Why Not Join Circus?

"Why don't you join the circus?" is an unkind question little people are often asked by their "big" neighbors.

It used to be that show business was about the only place the little people could find jobs. It's different now.

George A. Behm III, New York, in a report to the convention, said only 3 per cent of the 1,500 LPA members are in any field of entertainment.

Dennis Binion, 38, Atlanta, Ga., 3 feet 4 inches tall, is an inspector for the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. He is also a pianist and turned down an offer of fulltime employment as an entertainer here while attending the convention.

King and Queen

Binion, the smallest man at the convention, was chosen king of the little people. Named queen was the littlest woman, 2-feet 9-inch Phyllis Poylston, 25, Wixom, Mich.

Jackie Robson, 4 feet 1 inch, is a kindergarten teacher at Downey, Cal. Others are accountants, skilled tradesmen and salesmen.

The little people are fully aware they are "curiosities" but they don't like to be called "freaks."

"One thing we have tried to emphasize in our meetings is that small stature has its advantages as well as drawbacks," Charles Bedlow, Owatonna, Minn., convention chairman, said. "We can do many things that larger people can't and, pound for pound, we are usually much stronger."

'I'm No Cutie-Midget Needing a Mother'

Michael Dunn talked to Reporter Diana Lurie about his affliction, the strains he endures and the stratagems he must use.

▸ When people make a big deal of ignoring my size, they always make me know they're being magnanimous. I've made it possible for most people to operate with me comfortably as normal human beings and to treat me as one. It's mostly a matter of showing them I'm not a cutie-midget or a young man in need of a mother. I'm just an ordinary guy who happens to be 3 feet 10.

▸ I'm not different than a week before the play opened but now people who have never talked to me want to become buddies: I suddenly have to go overboard to be friendly or they'll say I'm sluffing them.

▸ I think it's wrong to try to be something you are not. But it's just as bad to refuse to be something you can be merely because there is difficulty involved—or because it endangers a private softness you've grown used to.

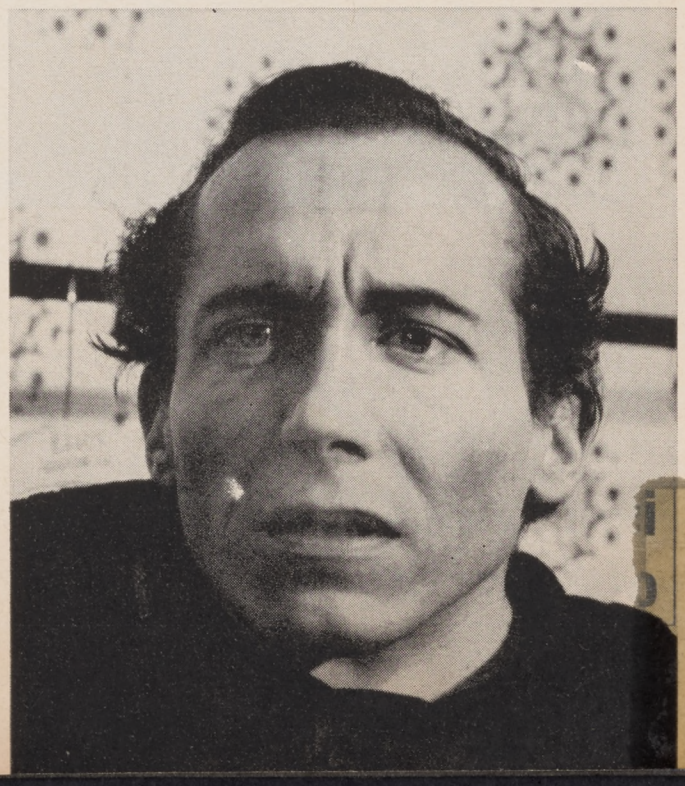
▸ The fact that there are no dwarfs around who are actors—there are a lot of professional midgets and some dwarfs who can speak lines—means there's not an awful lot of competition for roles, and I was conscious of this when I went into acting.

▸ You can suddenly find what strength or stubbornness you need to do something just because somebody says you can't. All right, Buster, I'll show you. And maybe you've never done it before. I jumped off a 36-foot-high board once when I was about 10 and couldn't even swim.

▸ I was in college and was walking with a girl when a guy got out of his car, ignored me totally and told her to get into the car, figuring what could I do. I know just where to kick somebody to break his leg—which I did. I took the girl back to her dormitory and then called the police.

▸ The function of a suit is to cover a human body. All the American tailors I've ever met ignore the fact I'm 3 feet 10 and they assiduously try to make the suit look as though I'm 6 feet tall. It doesn't work.

After curtain, strain and exhaustion tense Dunn's face. He is on stage most of play in role requiring constant, spiderlike movement.



To save his limited strength for his performance, Dunn, munching a hot dog he bought at a stand, is carried to the theater by *Ballad* actor Dean Selmier.

"I've always lived with constant pain, so that wasn't a factor in whether I made a life for myself or not. I could have copped out, lived with my parents and pulled the dwarf bit."

CONTINUED

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MEET MR. DUNN

He Advances Some Reasons for Using Dwarfs in Theatrical Productions

By THOMAS LASK

A BONE-CRUSHING knock-down and drag-out fight between a man and woman is, certainly, enough to hold the attention of most spectators in the theater (and anywhere else, for that matter).

At the Martin Beck, where Edward Albee's adaptation of Carson McCullers's "The Ballad of the Sad Cafe" has settled, such a spectacle is being offered eight times a week. But something else has been added. Hovering over the combatants like an avenging fury is the figure of a dwarf, his frenzied features mirroring the course of the battle, until with a cry, he literally throws himself into the middle of it to swing victory irrevocably to one side.

This role, that of Cousin Lymon, is being played by Michael Dunn, a 29-year-old transplanted Midwesterner who stands 3 feet 8 inches in height and weighs 70 pounds. (In medical terms he is an achondroplastic dwarf.)

At lunch the other day, cuddled up in a booth in his favorite Eighth Avenue eatery (the waitress calls him Michael), Mr. Dunn resembled the Eumenides about as much as "The Ballad of the Sad Cafe" resembles the "Ziegfeld Follies."

Dressed in a muted gray tweed jacket, with a vest of indeterminate plaid over a crimson turtleneck cotton shirt, of which a bright triangle was showing, Mr. Dunn looked like an earnest student settled in his campus alcove for a serious bull session. He wears thick, square hornrimmed spectacles and his hair is combed in a modified bartender's curl.

Varied Interests

Enjoying the interview with an almost sensual satisfaction, Mr. Dunn ranged over a whole host of matters from his reading (science-fiction, Conrad, Twain, "The Wizard of Oz") to the possible parts open to a person of his size and stature.

Although most people would be hard to put to name more than one story with a dwarf in it, Mr. Dunn, without really trying, ticked off Gunter Grass's "The Tin Drum," Par Lagerkvist's "The Dwarf," James Purdy's "Malcolm," the movie version of Katherine Anne Porter's "Ship of Fools," Nathanael West's "Day of the Locusts" and a whole battery of fools and jesters in Shakespeare's plays.

Mr. Dunn emphasized the fact that he meant roles to be acted. "For a number of reasons," he said, "social, technical, medical, whenever dwarfs have been used, it has been mostly to turn a few handsprings or their equivalent." He'd like to remedy that. He believes that at the appropriate places he can add a noticeable quality to the stage. He cited "Ballad" as an example. The theme, he says, is that when love comes, it comes unbidden and the lover is totally helpless before it. In the strange triangle that is the heart of the play, an actual dwarf makes the theme far more compelling dramatically than if the play merely used a person made up to resemble one.

Acting Problems

Asked whether there are any disabilities in playing the role, Mr. Dunn said only those any actor might encounter. He is slapped once by Lou Antonio, who plays Marvin Macy. It looks, however, a lot more brutal than it is. "It's just a matter of falling."

He suffers from the layers of clothes he has to wear, including a canvas tunic on which an artificial hunchback has been molded, and a velvet vest that is almost (here Mr. Dunn indicated the width with thumb and forefinger) an inch thick. By the end of the evening he is soaking wet. His biggest trouble is more emotional or psychological: "It's easy to be cuddly with Colleen Dewhurst [who plays Miss Amelia] but it's hard to be vicious to her later on."

When he is not acting, which up until now has been most of the time, Mr. Dunn sings in clubs, cocktail lounges, cafes and night spots of all kinds. His word for them all is "saloons." Some of them have been, in fact, and though he likes to sing, he "hates saloons."His repertory includes ballads, mood pieces, Irish songs or anything he is in the mood for. At the moment Mr. Dunn was in the mood; he put down his drink, held up his hands appealingly and intoned a few measures of "Never Hit Your Grandmother With a Shovel; It Disturbs Her Mind."

He began singing professionally at the age of 16 when he was at the University of Michigan. Mr. Dunn, whose name was Gary Neil Miller, was born in Shattuck, Okla., but his family moved later to the Detroit area. His mother is a teacher, his father an engineer. "I was always a little ahead in school," he says and that is why he was at the university at so young an age. On the advice of doctors that he stay a while in warmer climates, he switched to the University of Miami.

In Miami he became a whirlwind of activity. He joined the school's Ring Theater, performed and sang in varsity shows, ran the campus monthly magazine, acted as a cheerleader and made money on the side by appearances in Miami hotels and nightclubs.

Eastward Ho!

This perpetual motion so staggered the rest of the student body that they all chipped in and bought him a brand new Austin. On graduation he returned to Detroit and more singing assignments, then landed in California where he did very well singing, all the time saving his money for New York, because, he felt, in New York there would be a chance for him as an actor.

The first three months in this city were rugged until he finally landed an engagement. But his intuition paid off, for, sure enough, he was recommended for his first professional acting job, in Philip Barry's "Here Come the Clowns," by someone who heard him sing at a club in Greenwich Village. Parts followed in "Two by Saroyan," "Hop Signor" and "Elizabeth the Queen" and in a movie not yet distributed. This summer he was at Spoleto in Henry Miller's "Just Wild About Harry."

A year or so ago he took up sculpting and found himself enjoying it and reasonably good at it. Someone asked whether he was cultivating any of the domestic arts like cooking. "Cooking?" asked Mr. Dunn, cocking a quizzical Irish eye at the interrogator. "Well, I open a can of beef stew and a bottle of coke once in a while. Will that do it?"

Friedman-Abeles

COUSINS—Michael Dunn and Colleen Dewhurst in "The Ballad of the Sad Cafe." Dunn says it is easy to be cuddly with Colleen but "hard to be vicious to her later on."

New York Times Dec. 1, 1963

TEN YEAR OLD EUGENE HERBETTE is shown center front, in the light sport shirt and trousers, at the annual convention of the Little People of America in Glouchester, N. J. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Herbette of Roosevelt Drive, Derby, and will enter the fourth grade at Lincoln School in September. Shown at the extreme right in the third row is Billy Barty, founder of the organization, former member of the Spike Jones orchestra. He entertained the "little littles" at the convention, all of whom knew him through his appearances on the Peter Gunn television show. Herbette stands behind the two seated in the foreground.

Little People 'Think Big'

Ten-Year-Old Derby Dwarf Swims, Bowls, Plays Ball

The Little People of America, (midgets and dwarves), have a motto. It is "Think Big."

Ten-year-old Eugene Herbette of Derby follows this motto in everything he does, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Herbette of Roosevelt Drive, say.

Herbette is 45 inches tall.

Eugene is a dwarf in a family of normal sized people. The fact that he is smaller than anybody else in the family doesn't bother him in the least. He has a sister, Renee, 6, who "looks up" to her older brother and two older brothers, Raymond, Jr., who is in the U.S. Navy, and Robert, 18.

Eugene and his parents recently returned from the convention of the Little People of America, Inc. held in Glouchester, N.M. They were accompanied by Renee. Eugene is a member of the LPA.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbette were named District One coordinators at the session.

Eugene may be small but he handles himself well on the baseball field, at swimming meets and on the bowling lanes. He participated in all these activities while at the convention.

Eugene was also featured in a fashion show in which he modeled a sailor suit and was awarded a prize.

Eugene was picked from the "little littles" (children) from throughout the United States to serve as escort to the king. A "little little," Marie Lertini of Auburn, N.Y., was selected as escort to the queen of the convention.

Little People of America was organized in 1957 through the efforts of Billy Barty, familiar to vaudeville buffs and television viewers. He is a former member of Spike Jones orchestra and appeared on This is Your Life.

Billy Barty knew the right people, had a lot of friends in show business and knew a great many of the little people.

Barty credits Art Linkletter with giving impetus to the idea of an organization for little people.

First Meeting

In 1957 Barty held a meeting with 21 little people from nine states in attendance. A mailing list resulted that served as the foundation for the organization.

From 1957 to 1960 the LPA was stagnant but in 1960 held a convention in Las Vegas, Nev. At this convention a constitution was drawn up and the name Little People of America adopted officially.

Today the LPA has more than 2,000 members located in 14 districts in the United States. They meet annually to elect officers and compare notes. Their purpose is to "look the rest of the world in the eye" and to let people know that Little People are different only in size.

The Little People measure up fine in talent, taste and intelligence.

The Little People adjust to the big people's world.

Problem

Mrs. Herbette said that buying clothes causes a great problem. "It's pretty hard for the little ladies to buy an adult high heel shoe. Driving cars means installation of extensions on the gas and brake pedals. Using a public telephone booth is sometimes a hazard because of big people can't see the little person in the booth and barge right in," she said.

Contrary to public opinion, Little People are not all show business people, Mr. Herbette said.

Among the members of the LPA are school teachers, accountants, electrical engineers, technical writers, chemists, doctors. Less than 3 per cent of the members are in show business, she said.

Different Occupations

Lee Kitchen, president of the LPA, is an electrical engineer. The four feet, six and one half inches vice president, Bill Albough, represents Squirt Soda. Robert Spector, a coordinator, recently received his doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a technical writer for the Dupont Company.

Sports

Mrs. Herbette said: "So you see, the Little People are not limited to any occupation and very few sports other than basketball. Eugene can't follow in his older brother's footsteps in that field."

Mrs. Herbette said the Little People point out that they are trying to live down the idea that all Little People are in show business. "Billy Barty says that if you give a name of an occupation, 99 per cent of the time he can name a little person in that field. "Most of the Little People have jobs that demand respect," she said.

Mrs. Herbette said she and her husband spoke to many of the Little People and found that to them nothing is impossible. She said that she spoke about the problem of furnishing a home and was told this was no problem.

The Little People say they are comfortable in normal sized furniture and that they entertain more normal size guests than Little People. " 'Of course,' they say, " 'you may find more than usual quota of stepladders around the house' ".

Mrs. Herbette said: "The Little People may be small but they don't want anyone looking down on them."

Mr. and Mrs. Herbette have information available for Little People or parents of Little People who might want to join the organization.

The Evening Sentinel July 30, 1965

GROWTH CONTINUED

Tiny gland is the 'place of the soul'

The pituitary gland, source of the growth hormone, nestles directly under the brain in a tiny cradle of bone, and was known among the ancients as "the abiding place of the soul." Though they had no knowledge of endocrinology, they were astonishingly close to the truth. For the pituitary, small as it is, is a most marvelous and intricate factory whose products directly or indirectly govern almost the whole life, growth and reproductive process.

Taking instructions from the brain to which it is connected by a tiny stalk, the pituitary transmits them through the body in the form of chemical messengers known as hormones. The pituitary, moreover, normally serves as a kind of computer which monitors the work of these hormones, manufacturing more when there is a need and less when there is not. The hormones not only exert a direct influence of their own but also trigger the production of other vital hormones elsewhere in the body. The pituitary itself is the source of seven known hormonal secretions, all produced in the front part of the gland, and all but one of them—TSH—first isolated by Dr. Li and his team at California's Hormone Research Laboratory.

Lipotropin, which Dr. Li isolated in 1964, liberates stored body fat into the bloodstream. Thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) spurs the growth of the thyroid gland, which in turn regulates the rate of body metabolism. Adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) triggers the production of possibly as many as 60 different hormones in the adrenal cortex. ACTH also helps the kidneys regulate the body's salt and water content and prevents inflammation of the joints—hence its use in arthritis treatment.

The three other pituitary hormones, called the gonadotropins, control sex and reproduction. Deficiencies can cause infertility—and injections of the hormones in the form of "fertility drugs" last year produced a spectacular crop of quintuplets and quadruplets (LIFE, Aug. 13, 1965).

Of all the pituitary products yet analyzed, the growth hormone has the most complex chemical code—and perhaps the most complicated function. In addition to its regulating function in growth, scientists suspect it may have something to do with such diverse phenomena as mammary gland development, tissue replacement and even cancer.

Jars at the Tufts New England Medical Center, which treats dwarfed children, contain 30,000 pituitary glands. One gland will yield a week's dosage of HGH.

—Herald-Examiner Photo

REGARDLESS, IT'S A BIG STEP
Aileen Henderson, Lenus Garman wed by Fr. Michael Casey

Little People, Big Wedding

A young dwarf couple was honeymooning at Big Bear Lake today after their marriage yesterday, attended by friends and relatives — many of the little people too.

Aileen Henderson, 19, and Lenus Garman, 25, were married in a brief ceremony at St. Maria Regina Catholic Church in Gardena. Father Michael Casey officiated.

Following the ceremony, the young couple was honored at a reception at the Palomino Nightclub in North Hollywood, where the bride was formerly employed.

Garman is a stockman for a catering firm in Van Nuys. The couple met through friends who are dwarfs. They will make their home in Van Nuys.

Maid of honor and best man were Mr. and Mrs. William Norvelle, also little people.

May 10, 1964
Los Angeles Herald Examiner

The Washington Daily News

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Weather

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—News Photos by Tom Bensinger.

BASEBALL, JUNIOR GRADE—The Little People of America, meeting here this week end, met the Little Leaguers of Silver Spring in a baseball game on the Ellipse yesterday. At left, Billy Barty of Hollywood, Calif., pitchs for the Little People while First Baseman Harold Schulman of Brooklyn tries to keep Little Leaguer Danny Turner away from second. Umpire is Jim Snoddy, of 6710 Allegheny-av, Takoma Park. At right, the Little People take issue with Umpire Snoddy over a decision. Pitcher Barty jumped on the shoulder of Gus Couretas of Pontiac, Mich., so he could "look the umpire in the eye." The umpire won, and so did the Little Leaguers, 12 to 11.

Love Scales Heights

'Little People' Wed In Fitchburg Rites

FITCHBURG — The principals stood little taller than a yardstick, but their wedding journey reached the heights of the highest mountain.

At a ceremony yesterday afternoon in St. Joseph's Church, Miss Lena M. Richard, who is three feet, eleven inches tall became the bride of Dana W. Guild, who is eight inches taller than his bride.

Lena, who is the daughter of Thaddy E. Richard of 216 St. Joseph Ave., was given in marriage by her father. Mr. Richard is average height as are Lena's brothers and sisters (the family numbers 11). Dana is the son of Mrs. Gladys Guild of Hopkinton.

Attendants

Another little couple, Madeline Young of Dover, N.H., and Norman Ouellette of Fall River, were the attendants.

Both couples met in the organization known as Little People of America of which they are members. Ernest Niles Jr., 11, who is 42 inches tall and a member of the Little People's organization was ring bearer.

The taller nephews, Roland Richard of Leominster and George Richard of Fitchburg, ushered.

The gowns of the bride and her maid of honor were made by Mrs. Emil Blanchard of Fitchburg. The bride's gown was a child's size 10. Her slippers were size two.

The bridal gown was of white Swiss imported embroidered tulle over white satin appliqued with satin flowers. It was fashioned with a fitted bodice, circular neckline, long lily point sleeves and a full-length skirt. Her bouffant tulle veil was caught to a crown of tulle made with a detachable face veil. She carried white roses and baby's breath in a cascade bouquet.

The maid of honor wore a similar gown of sky blue tulle over blue satin but fashioned with short sleeves. She wore a tulip crown of blue tulle with a detachable veil and carried pink carnations and baby's breath.

A reception in Eagles Hall followed the ceremony. After a wedding trip the couple will live in Framingham where Dana is a compositor at Dennison Mfg. Co. His bride was an inspector at Foster Grant Co., Leominster, for nine years.

A small group of Little People members were among the wedding guests. Others attending were families of the

Turn to FITCHBURG Page 2

PRINCIPALS IN WEDDING OF "LITTLE PEOPLE" AT FITCHBURG
From left, Madeline Young, attendant; Mrs. Dana W. Guild (Lena M. Richard), bride; Rev. Roland M. Nadeau, who officiated; Dana W. Guild, bridegroom; Norman Ouellette, attendant; and Ernest Niles Jr., ringbearer

BEFORE THE WEDDING
Little Lena And Little Madeline

Mass. Sentinel
May 25, 1964

Little People of America Executive Stops At Portland TraveLodge While on Long Tour

A little man with two big positions is William Albaugh, who stayed at the *Portland, Oregon, TraveLodge* during his recent trip through the Northwest promoting a low-calorie soft drink for The Squirt Co.

Albaugh is the company's national "Little Squirt" and also serves as vice president of the Little People of America, Inc. He measures 4 feet 6 inches.

Membership Revealed

The club has some 5,500 members all of whom are 4 feet 10 inches or less in height.

Mrs. Albaugh, a tiny 3 feet 11 inches, and her husband were the guests of *Homer L'Heureux.*

The Albaughs stay at TraveLodges whenever possible, L'Heureux said.

Normal Role

Albaugh, a living trademark for Squirt, says 90 per cent of the club's members are professional people. Little people try to play a normal role in life despite obstacles that normal-sized persons never notice, he said.

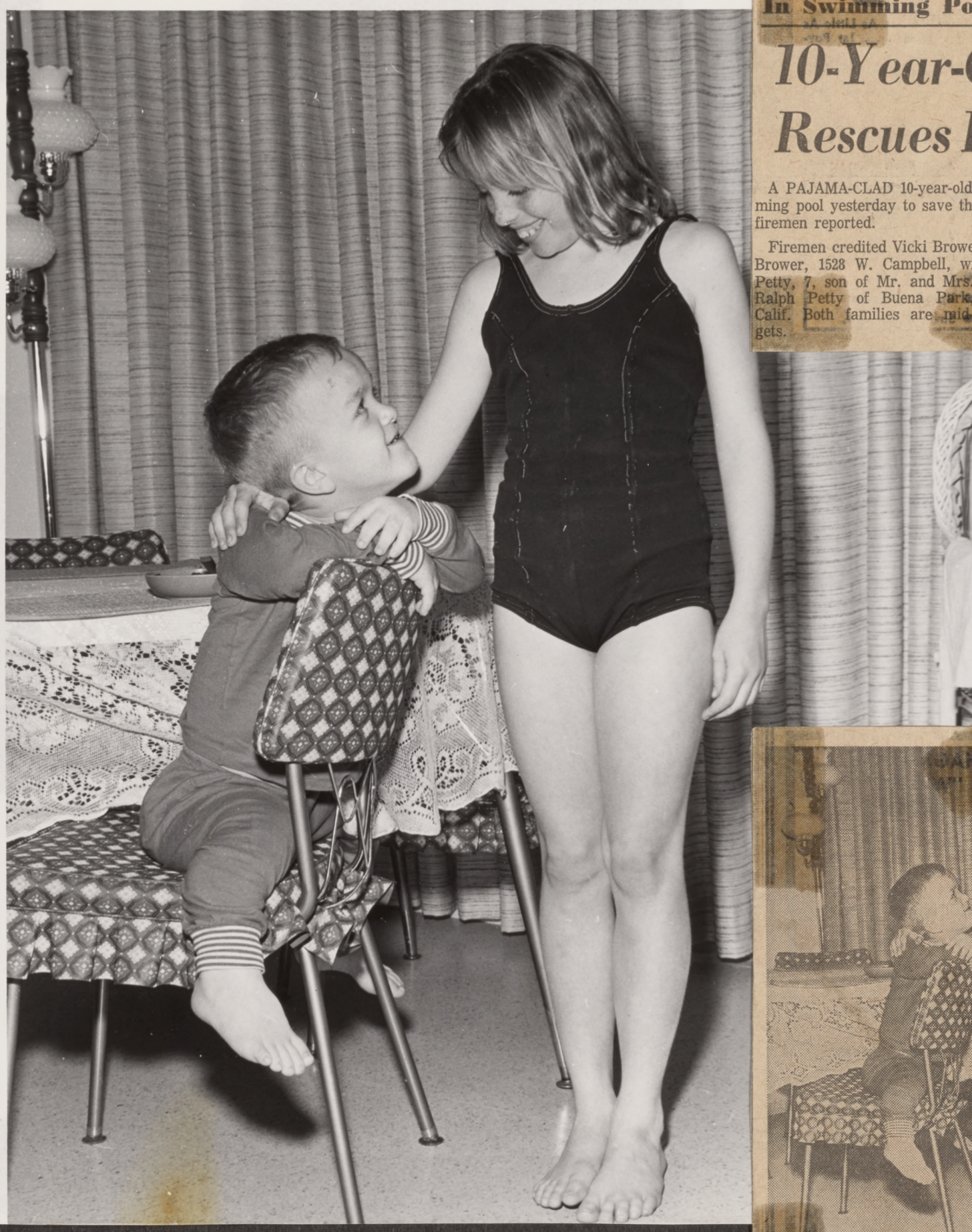
Diminutive Mrs. William Albaugh looks on as her husband signs the register at the Portland, Oregon, TraveLodge. Albaugh is vice president of Little People of America, Inc.

TraveLodger International. June 1965

AUBURN — LITTLE PEOPLES. Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Lentini, of 31 Orchard St., recently entertained 10 guests, all members of Little People of America, Inc. They made plans here to attend the National Convention of the Little People of America, Inc. in Gloucester, N. J., July 19-23. Left to right, front, Mr. and Mrs. Lentini, and their daughter, Shirley, 10; Richard Heyman and Eleanor Ostrow of Brooklyn; Joseph Steinberg and Ann Cleary of New York City; Herman Lifkoff and his daughter, Susan, of New York City; Charles Secor of Union Springs, Mary LaRusso of Scranton, Pa., Cyrus Agoss of New York City, and Paul Jones of Chardon, O. In back, left, is Gerald Lentini, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lentini.

Auburn Citizen Advertiser
6-1-65

Auburn Citizen Advertiser - June 1, 1965



In Swimming Pool March 5, 1965

10-Year-Old Girl Rescues Boy, 7

A PAJAMA-CLAD 10-year-old Phoenix girl dived into a swimming pool yesterday to save the life of a young California boy, firemen reported.

Firemen credited Vicki Brower, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Brower, 1528 W. Campbell, with saving the life of David A. Petty, 7, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Petty of Buena Park, Calif. Both families are midgets.

Battalion Chief Ted Bentley gave this account:

David, who with his parents, is visiting the Browers, was riding his bicycle in the recreation area adjacent to the Browers' townhouse when he rode into the swimming pool.

Another youngster who witnessed the accident alerted Mrs. Brower who ran to the pool with Vicki close behind.

Bentley said David was thrashing about under water, apparently pinned beneath the surface by his bicycle. Vicki, still wearing her pajamas, dived in and brought David to the side of the pool where Mrs. Brower pulled him out.

Firemen administered oxygen until an ambulance took David to St. Joseph's Hospital where he was treated and released.

Republic Photo by Harrison Brown

David Petty, 7, And His Rescuer, Vicki Brower, 10
She Pulled Him From Swimming Pool After Bicycle Accident

The Arizona Republic & The Phoenix Gazette
March 5, 1965

Edmonds
Tribune - Review
April 7, 1965

LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA—In convention in Edmonds members of the LPA pose in front of the home of Mrs. Muriel Gant. Shown (left to right, front row): Vivian Gant, Edmonds, and Tom Hayward, Pendleton, Ore.; (second row, Larry Carr, Hillsborough, Ore.; Emma Furlong, Rochester, Wash.; Penny Pemble, Seattle; Shirley Beerg, district chairman, Berkenfeld, Ore.; Frieda Groeneveld, Darrington, Wash,, and Buck Huizenga, Pendleton, Ore.

Little People Hold Meet in Lynnwood

Forty members of the Little People of America—an organization whose members must be under 4 feet 10 inches tall—met Saturday in Lynnwood.

They met at the home of Mrs. Muriel Grant, mother of a "little person"—Vivian, who is only 40 inches tall.

Willy Albaugh, vice president of the national organization of Little People, said finding employment for Little People is their chief problem. Albaugh said, "People tend to judge us on our height rather than our abilities."

Many Little People, though, have found their niche in life. Frieda Groeneveld, formerly of Seattle, is now a teacher in Darrington, Wash. Miss Groeneveld said that her height seems to be an advantage in teaching second-graders. "I can look at them eye-to-eye, and children accept me."

Among problems which are common to the Little People are clothes, transportation and telephone facilities. "Not only is it hard to find clothes to fit, but sometimes we have to search for a long time to find a telephone that we can reach," said one of the Little People. Almost invariably too, bus steps are too high for the Little People.

Cars also must be fitted with many extras, such as extended pedals and custom-built seats.

Most midgets train themselves to see the funny side of life, and this was exhibited Saturday when three of the Little People pushed Miss Groeneveld's small automobile over the curb while she was talking to reporters. Great hilarity and joking followed, and a light-hearted air seemed to surround the Little People all during their meeting with reporters.

District 11 of the Little People of America, which is the group that met in Lynnwood, is making an effort to organize a Seattle chapter of their organization.

Members of the group which met here started returning to their homes Sunday, after having enjoyed a dinner-dance Saturday night.

MAY SNOW—Snow pelted down on Darrington for four hours Tuesday—the first time oldsters can recall it snowing in town in the month of May. At Grade Creek, 18 miles from Darrintgon, snow got up to six inches deep and all logging operations in the area were closed down for the day. Here school teacher Frieda Groeneveld stands beside her car which shows the result of the snowfall in the community. (Photo by Mildred Koop)

The Everett Herald May 6, 1965

MINUTE EDUCATOR — Frieda Groeneveld, although smaller than her first grade pupil Tony McMahan, commands deep respect from her students who love their "Little People" teacher. (Photo by Mildred Koop)

Minute-Sized Educator Has Love, Respect of Pupils

By MILDRED KOOP
Staff Correspondent

DARRINGTON — Proof positive that "Little People" think big and accomplish big deeds is testified to by all who know the 3-foot 11-inch "small" Darrington first grade teacher, Frieda Groeneveld.

Her devotion to her students is exemplified in their obvious eagerness to accomplish the educational goals she so efficiently presents. But then, people just naturally respond to Frieda and she has found it thus from childhood.

The petite, green eyed, blonde was born in Darrington April 29, 1941, delivered by longtime Darrington physician, Dr. B. T. Blake. Frieda has three sisters, Greta, Joann and Wilma, all normal sized.

Medically, Frieda is termed an achondroplastic dwarf, more simply, her normal growth process was slowed by a cartilage growth malfunction.

Her parents, Frieling and Johanna Groeneveld came to the Pacific Northwest prior to World War II from Emden, a town in Northeastern Germany. They lived in Darrington for a short time only and now reside on a farm near Everett.

Frieda attended Everett High School, continued her education at Seattle Pacific College, graduating in 1963 with a BA degree in Education, Language Arts as her major.

Possessed with a natural affinity for friendliness, Frieda feels she has had more than the average amount of encouragement throughout the years. She displays absolutely no shyness about her size and certainly hasn't been deterred by it, as evidenced by her numerous attributes.

She considers normal acceptance by her family helped her become equipped with normal standards and ambitions. If others can succeed, so can she and therefore she determined meeting each challenge with success.

Before Frieda accepted a teaching assignment for September, 1963, with the Darrington system, numerous questions had to be weighed and countered. It is summed up best in her own words, "You just have to show them and they're sold." So she became one of the few teachers from among the Little People.

She thoroughly enjoys small town life and only wishes a college were nearer so she could continue her education. Asked if she planned to marry, she ideally answered, "If the right man asks me."

Following a picture and story in a Seattle newspaper last year, picked up nationally, she received nearly 300 letters, many from other Little People across the country.

Her expression outside the field of education is best exemplified by her active assistant leadership of the Yo-Tan-Ta Camp Fire Girls in Darrington. She was the undisputed life of the group's recent campout at Camp Killoqua.

Hobbies needfully border on points of necessity, primarily sewing. Frieda uses a portable machine set on a low table and makes not only her clothes but her patterns as well. When Skagit Valley College offered the Bishop Sewing courses in Darrington, she enrolled and proved a very interested and inspirational student.

She often delights in the riot of expressions displayed by onlookers when she alights from her crimson Volkswagon. Driving a car was just another challenge to this mighty mite of a girl. Her father simply elevated the pedals about eight inches and Frieda drives with ease. An auto trip across the United States will someday be among her accomplishments.

Her friends are deemed her greatest asset in life and she readily agrees successes would have been impossible without them. Even the dialing of a telephone number in a booth could cause consternation, Frieda relates, were it not for a friend, old or new.

"People are most helpful, especially when I need something off the top shelf," she says. There's a problem too, getting to the bottom of things such as retrieving her laundry from the depths of the washer, an act that requires more than the average amount of agility on her part.

Four years ago Frieda became affiliated with a ten-new organization of "Little People of America." In this group of approximately 3,000 members, Frieda learned to accept herself in a more understanding light, as others see her. The earliest realization of her "difference" was pinpointed when she first viewed herself in a home movie.

Last summer, Frieda attended the Little People's convention in Phoenix, Ariz., and more recently was active in the group's conclave held early this month in Seattle.

It is her opinion these gatherings help Little People gain needed perspective to accept that which is unalterable and shift their sights to that which is, namely education, personality and the pursuit of a useful, productive life.

Past publicity has much maligned the Little People and Frieda feels a personal obligation to correct society's misconception.

Indeed, Frieda proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that Little People needn't live in a little world.

Handicapped? Not at all. Frieda is the handiwork of God.

The Everett Herald April 22, 1965

Hundreds View Double-Ring Ceremony–

'Little Lena' Gets Married

A "little couple" engaged in the city's "biggest" event Sunday afternoon.

The couple exchanged marriage vows in a double ring ceremony in St. Joseph's Church at 2 o'clock. The bride stood 3 feet, 11 inches and her bridegroom eight inches taller.

There was nothing little about the crowd of friends and relatives which filled the church, however. Several hundred were seated and many stood in the aisles while hundreds more waited outside to watch the radiant Lena M. Richard and her new husband Dana W. Guild of Hopkinton leave the church for their reception at the Eagles Hall.

The tiny bride came down the aisle of the church on the arm of her father, Thaddy E. Richard, 216 St. Joseph's Avenue. She was preceded by her maid-of-honor, Miss Madeline Young of Dover, N. H., who is no taller than she.

At the altar they joined the bridegroom and his best man Norman Ouellette of Fall River. The wedding principals and their attendants including Ernest Niles, Jr., who served as ring bearer, are all members of the Little People of America.

The bride's taller nephews; Roland Richard of Leominster and George Richard served as ushers. Rev. Roland Nadeau officiated at the service.

The bridal gown, a child's size 10, was designed and made by Mrs. Emil Blanchard. It was of Swiss imported embroidered tulle with satin flowered appliques over satin and was fashioned with a fitted bodice, circlet neckline, lilypoint sleeves, and a full length bell skirt. With it she wore a bouffant shoulder length veil held in place by a handmade crown of tulle trimmed with sequins and a detachable face veil. She carried a cascade bouquet of white roses and baby's breath.

Miss Young wore a full length gown of white embroidered tulle over blue satin with a scoop neckline, short sleeves and a bell skirt. Her blue tulip crown was trimmed with seed pearls and blue pearl drops and had a circular face veil. She carried a colonial bouquet of pink carnations, white pompons and baby's breath. Her gown was also made by Mrs. Blanchard.

The bridegroom is the son of Mrs. Gladys Guild of 7A St. Hopkinton. The bride is also the daughter of the late Mrs. Agnes Richard.

A reception followed at the Eagles Hall after which the newlyweds left for a honeymoon to be spent in New York and New Jersey. They will make their home in Framingham, where the bridegroom is employed at the Dennison Co. as a compositor.

The bride was employed at Foster Grant Co., Leominster for nine years before her marriage. They will make their home in a four-room apartment in a Framingham housing project.

The couple met through the Little People of America organization in which the bride has been active since 1960. Mr. Guild joined a year ago.

In July Mr. and Mrs. Guild will attend Miss Young and Mr. Ouellette at their wedding to be held in Dover, N. H.

Twelve members of the Little People of America were among those attending Little Lena's wedding and reception.

BRIDAL PARTY OF MR. AND MRS. DANA GUILD
After Exchange Of Vows At St. Joseph's

CHILD OF MARY CEREMONY
Bride Assisted By Maid-Of-Honor

NEWLYWEDS LEAVE CHURCH
Mr. And Mrs. Dana W. Guild

LEAVE FOR RECEPTION
En Route To Eagles Hall

THE OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER IN THE UNITED STATES—FOUNDED 1771

The Philadelphia Inquirer

PUBLIC LEDGER

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 20, 1965

Tiny Billy Barty snaps photo of Lee Kitchens (left) and William Albaugh planning annual Little People of America Convention with Don Hughes, manager of Holiday Inn, Gloucester, N. J.

200 Meet in Gloucester

Little People Peeved By Small Minds of Their Big Neighbors

By ROSE DeWOLF
Of The Inquirer Staff

MIDGETS and dwarfs sometimes find the going rough in a big world. But their problems come not from the fellow with a tall physique but from the guy with a narrow mind.

Some 200 members of Little People of America, Inc.—all under four feet, 11 inches in height—are meeting this week in the Holiday Inn in Gloucester, N. J.

Their purpose is not only to enjoy themselves, but also to look the rest of the world in the eye and tell them that little people are different only in size. They measure up fine in talent, taste and intelligence.

"All of us have to make an adjustment," says Lee Kitchens, Texas engineer, who is president of the organization. "And, in that, we help one another. We try to impress the normal parents of 'little-littles' that they must treat the children no differently than if they were regular size.

"But most of the things most people talk about when referring to little people are not real problems — just annoyances."

Buying clothes for instance. It's hard for the little ladies to buy adult high heels. Buying insurance. For the some reason, little people are considered riskier. Driving cars. They must install "extensions" on the gas and brake pedals. Using a public telephone. Tall folks don't see the little caller, barge right into the booth.

"BUT there are advantages, too," says Harriet Hoppert, a Milwaukee school teacher, "particularly in my field. The children like the idea of my being physically on their level but mentally above them."

The little people are, contrary to public opinion, not a bunch of show business types. Most are professional people.

"We have every occupation here but basketball players," says Dr. Robert Spector, a du-Pont chemist from Wilmington.

The organization was founded seven years ago by actor Billy Barty (three feet six) who is best known for his role on Peter Gunn. Barty made an appeal to little people and attracted 21 to the first convention.

Today, there are 2000 names on the mailing list.

Barty says his pet peeve about the Gullivers of this world is their tendency to treat the little people like children. And this, they defenitely are not.

The little people may be small but they don't want anybody looking down on them. The motto of the organization: "Think Big." What else?

PROBLEM DIALING — Claudia Bishop, 17, of Douglasville, Ga., who is just 3-foot-11, has trouble dialing the telephone, just another of the problems that beset the "Little People," members of an organization of individuals under 4-foot-11. The group is holding a convention in Gloucester, N. J. (AP Wirephoto)

GLOUCESTER, N.J.—Claudia Bishop, 17, of Douglasville, Ga., who is just 3-foot-11, has trouble dialing the telephone, just another of the problems that beset the "Little People," members of an organization of individuals under 4-foot-11. Eileen Shanahan, 23, of Chicago, who is 4-foot-3, watches from outside the booth. AP Wirephoto

Kingston Daily Freeman
Kingston N.Y. July 22, 1965

The Philadelphia Inquirer
July 20, 1965

—Courier-Post Photo by James Stewart

A BIG WELCOME is offered by Don Hughes, resident manager of the Holiday Inn, Gloucester City, to Lee Kitchens (left), president of Little People of America, Inc. Looking on is Billy Barty, founder of the organization and TV personality. LPA is in convention at the motel through Friday.

'Little Squirt' Is Big Thinker

Albaugh Signs 'Recruits' on Sales Trips

By ROY CHURCH
Courier-Post Staff

"If you don't have it from the knees down, you better have it from the shoulders up."

That's the advice of William Albaugh, vice president of Little People of America, Inc.

The seventh annual convention of the nationwide organization began yesterday in Holiday Inn, Gloucester.

Albaugh, who lives at 3225 Mount Ephraim ave., is always stressing the importance of education as he goes around the country meeting little people.

Education Is All

"Education is everything to a little person," Albaugh said. "We may be small in stature but we're certainly not small in mentality. We have little people in all walks of life and in many responsible positions."

Albaugh spends 90 per cent of his time on the road as a salesman and public relations man for LPA and Squirt soda. In fact, this "Little Squirt" is the living trademark for the midwest bottling company.

"Bill has never failed to bring in one or two new little people from every trip," said Lee Kitchens, president of LPA. "On one tripe he recruited 16 new members."

Good Ambassador

"No other member lives LPA more each day," Kitchens added, "He's the best ambassador-at-large we have."

Billy Barty, founder of LPA, credits Albaugh with developing more areas for LPA through his traveling with Squirt than any other member of the organization. "He makes it a personal point to broadcast LPA," Barty said.

Last year Albaugh covered more than 32,000 miles. He has just recently returned from a six-month promotion trip through the western half of the country.

Anything But Big

"It's our job to help little people face up to the fact that they can be anything they want but big," Albaugh said. "And at the same time we are trying to establish a better understanding among the general public."

"We are not just cute little people. We are human beings just like the rest of the people on this earth. We may be a little shorter in stature, but that's where the difference ends."

Albaugh and his wife, Marie, have lived in Camden nine years.

Valuable Asset

"Marie is one of Bill's most valuable assets," Kitchens said. "She makes it a lot easier for Bill to contact families with little people and little couples."

Bill Albaugh is a "Little Squirt" who does big things for Little People of America.

July 20, 1965
Courier-Post Camden N.J.

LITTLE PEOPLE, BIG HEARTS—It's grand for small folk at Holiday Inn near Gloucester City, N. J., as Little People of America hold annual convention. Sophia Juck (right), inn hostess who's 5-foot-7, leads some of group on tour of grounds.

Daily News Photo by Charles Myers

Big Time for the Little People

By NELS NELSON

Life isn't necessarily easier if all your problems are little ones.

How does one eat in the automat, for example, if the coin slots are beyond reach?

"Don't be ashamed to ask for help," advised Robert Spector, who stands 4 feet 5 in his thickest soles. "Be realistic. After all, there are worse handicaps than being small.

"I have no qualms, for example, about asking someone in the supermarket to get something for me off the top shelf, where it usually in."

THE ADVANTAGES of thinking big loom large in the lives of the Little People of America, a band of citizens whom nearly everybody looks down on, for their tallest member cannot tip the by-laws any higher than 4 feet 9.

"The problems involved in being small are mostly psychological," said Spector, 31, of 4308 Miller rd., Wilmington. "Such as, feeling sorry for oneself and taking the view that it's useless to bother trying for something that seems out of reach."

Spector, a technical writer for E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., points out that other Little People hold positions of great responsibility in vocational endeavors.

"One popular misconception we take pains to correct is that most Little People are in show business. Actually, less than 3 percent of our membership is in this category."

SPECTOR is coordinator of the 7th annual national convention of the LPA, which opened four days of sessions yesterday at the Holiday Inn, Gloucester City, N. J. About 90 Little People have arrived from far-flung places. The total may reach 150.

One of the events will be a choose-up softball game on the nearby Gloucester High School athletic field. The only concession to size will be the use of Little League bats.

A good many of the convention doings are frankly social.

"We're no matrimonial agency," said Spector, "but quite a few marriages have resulted from our meetings. I'm an example. I met my wife, the former Mary Taylor of Westmont, N. J., through friends I made among the Little People."

FURNISHING a house does not appear to present any problems among Little Newlyweds.

"We're comfortable in normal-sized furniture," Spector explained, "and we do have people as guests who are normal-sized. Of course, you may find more than the usual quota of stepladders around the house."

Among the problems, other than psychological, which the Little People bandy about at their gatherings are those presented by clothing, jobs, insurance, auto extensions and phone booths.

July 20, 1965
Philadelphia Daily News

SHOW BUSINESS

ACTORS

Elf's Progress

Michael Dunn is a dwarf. At the age of 30, he stands 3 ft. 10 in. with his socks on and weighs 78 lbs., if you include his eyeglasses. Dunn is also an actor and a singer. His talents in both areas are considerable.

Dunn dazzled Broadway a year and a half ago with a bravura performance as Cousin Lymon in Edward Albee's adaptation of Carson McCullers' *Ballad of the Sad Café*. He spat Henry Miller-authored obscenities in the 1963 Spoleto Festival production of *Just Wild About Harry*. He plays Karl Glocken in the film version of *Ship of Fools*, which premières this week. He is the comic-villain Mr. Big in an early episode of *Get Smart*, a promising new TV series due in September. And just to prove that acting is not all he can do, he has been filling a Greenwich Village nightclub with his booming baritone.

Parabolic Process. The son of an engineer, Dunn was born with two dislocated hips. "By the time I was four, I realized I would be a dwarf," he says. And when he was five, the trouble was diagnosed—chondrodystrophy, a rare form of nonhereditary dwarfism believed to be caused by a chemical imbalance during gestation. Undaunted, Dunn terrified his parents by tearing off in hot pursuit of a normal childhood. He did not quite get one, but he managed to break his nose playing football and his leg ice-skating, and he almost drowned when, at ten, he jumped off a 36-ft.-high diving board before he had learned to swim.

Fortunately he was abnormally bright and abnormally talented. He entered the University of Michigan at 15. Illness forced him to seek a more salubrious climate, however, so he transferred to the University of Miami, where he ran the school magazine, acted in plays, became a cheerleader, and earned part of his tuition by singing in a nightclub.

After graduation, Dunn briefly considered becoming a missionary ("A young man feels he has to serve") and entered a Capuchin monastery. He describes his religious experiences as "an intellectual process, probably of parabolic shape." After six months he decided he could not accept the dogma and left.

Rare Air. But from the first, his real interests had been musical. He hoped to be a pianist until the disease slowly crippled his elbows and wrists. He had, however, a naturally good voice, with sound, deep resonance for a man whose body was so small. With only a minimum of concern over the problems his size would present onstage, he decided to make his career in show business. "It's what I do best," he explains, "and I knew I could always make a living at it."

Like most starving young beginners, Dunn supported himself with odd jobs, including one as a sports rewrite man on a daily paper, another as a hotel detective. (He is an excellent shot with small arms; large guns tend to fire him rather than the bullet.) Gradually, acting jobs began materializing. He played jesters, fools, a cop and a vaudeville performer off-Broadway, made his first Broadway appearance as the insides of a robot in *How to Make a Man*.

His current nightclub act includes Artist-Actress Friend Phoebe Dorin. Cavorting and clowning on two custom-built circular stepladders that help equalize their heights, the two jolly up the Upstairs at the Duplex, a pair of gleeful grigs. All they do is sing a selection of spirituals, ballads, medleys and specialty songs—all of their own arranging—but they do it with a purity of sound and spirit that in nightclubs is as rare as fresh air.

No Choice. Acting is now Dunn's main concern. He points out that there are many non-dwarf roles he can play, including all the fools and jesters in Shakespeare, as well as real personages tailored to his own dimensions, such as Toulouse-Lautrec and Charles Proteus Steinmetz. His next Broadway part will be Kermit Raphaelson in Edward Albee's adaptation of James Purdy's *Malcolm*, due this fall.

Professional limitations are minor compared to the trials of private elf life. Most distressing to Dunn is the weakness of his legs and hips, which cannot support him without pain or carry him more than half a block without agony. On the theory that "physically I can't compete, but my head is my edge," he has applied science and industry to all the awkward aspects of living. He can drive a car, fly a plane ("I have a sense of machines as an extension of myself"), and is a strong though not fast swimmer. He is well versed in self-defense, once broke an assailant's leg with a well-placed kick. Socially, he finds most people "are extra friendly, sometimes out of embarrassment." That, he feels, is their problem. He tries to help them over it.

Dunn is matter-of-fact about his dwarfism. "Remember," he says, "I was born this way. There was nothing to adjust to. My life has been just like everyone else's—finding out what you can do, what you like to do, and doing it." He scoffs at any hint that his high dive into life has been in any way courageous. "There wasn't really any other choice, except to be a vegetable. My reason for living is not that I'm brave, but that I like to be alive."

ALFRED STATLER

DUNN IN "SHIP OF FOOLS"

When you know what you like to do, do it.

AUGUST 2, 1965

Readers Column

Readers, this is your column. We will print here your opinion on any subject, just as you would discuss it with your neighbor. The only restrictions are good taste, usable length and the laws of libel. The writer must also supply his name and address in his own handwriting and agree to have his name signed to the letter when it appears in the paper.

To the Editor:

This month I had the privilege as a little person of going to the convention of Little People of America in Gloucester City, N.J. As a new member of this organization it was the first convention I had attended and I can truly say it was one of the most wonderful experiences in my life. It is very interesting meeting people your own size with the same problems, and nice to be able to look straight into the eyes of the person you're talking to.

LPA, as it often is called, is a relatively new organization founded by Bill Barty in 1957. Its members must be 4 feet 9 inches or under, but although small in size we all "think big." Little people now have disproved the belief that most short people are in show business. A very small percentage of the members are in show business. LPA members hold jobs as teachers, lawyers, bookkeepers, salesmen, receptionists, bartenders, telephone operators, bakers, IBM operators, restaurant owners and many others.

Many LPA members drive cars with the use of extensions, and the president of LPA, Lee Kitchens, pilots his own plane.

During the week, many activities were held including a fashion show, a tour of Philadelphia, softabll game, bowling and bingo games. The highlight of the convention was a banquet and coronation dance.

Guest speakers were also present at the meetings. Talks of interest to LPA members were given by officials from Gloucester City, doctors, and members themselves.

Many problems that little people have are psychological. A little person is apt to feel sorry for himself but must come to realize that there are worse handicaps than being small. At the convention, small people are able to discuss with each other the problems of buying clothes, cars, home furnishings and so on.

A good time was had by everyone at the Holiday Inn in Gloucester City this year. Everyone is looking forward to the 8th Convention of LPA in Austin, Texas, next year, and that includes me.

LINDA POMEROY
176 Howard St.
Keene.

Time Magazine July 30, 1965

Aug 2. 1965

WINNER OF "PERFECTLY FORMED MAN" TITLE IS A YOUNG GIANT—WHOSE DAD IS A DWARF

FATHER AND SON — Raymond Zugross, a dwarf, measures the size of a bicep on his son, Claude, who was recently voted the world's most perfectly formed man.

THE YOUNGER ZUGROSS was subjected to an intensive body-building program since he was a kid. "I wanted my boy to be everything I wasn't," said his dad. Here the two are shown horsing around in a gym.

BY LARRY JACKSON

When Claude Zugross was voted the "World's Most Perfectly Formed Man," he paid public thanks to his father.

Then he called his father, Raymond, up from the audience.

Sharing the platform with Dad was a moment of extreme joy for Claude. But for the audience it was one of shock.

Because the father of the world's most perfectly formed man turned out to be a dwarf — only 2' 11" tall.

When we interviewed father and son in their home in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on August 10th, Claude told us the following story:

"My parents were circus people, my mother being Mme. Serpenta, one of the best known snake charmers in the business.

"I hardly knew her though. She died of pneumonia when I was three and I was raised by my dad."

Claude's father sometimes worked as a clown, but most of the time he was part of the freak show.

"When Dad discovered that I wasn't going to be stunted like him," the 6' 1½" Claude said, "he was thrilled beyond belief.

"So thrilled that he decided to dedicate his life to making me the perfect physical specimen he never had a chance to be."

From the time he was six years old, Claude's education included from two to four hours of supervised exercise every day.

"Whenever the circus was going to be in one place for more than two weeks, Dad would enroll me in a local gym," Claude continued on. "And he persuaded the circus strong man to supervise my development.

"Some kids might have resented this kind of intensive training. But Dad made it all seem so wonderful that I was never anything but thrilled as my body developed into what it is now."

Six years ago Claude, at 16, became a circus strong man. It happened suddenly, when the long-time strong man of the show was shot to death by a jealous husband.

Claude was immediately hired to take his place.

Being made strong man was the proudest moment in the life of both Claude and his dad — until Claude's recent election as the "World's Most Perfectly Formed Man" by the Pan American Physical Culture Union.

"I have never been happier," said his father.

"You can't imagine how it feels to someone like me, a stunted freak for all of my 50 years, to know that your own son, your own flesh and blood, is the world's most perfectly formed man.

"Every night, I used to ask Claude's mother, in my prayers, to ask God to help our little boy. When Claude was voted this great honor, I went to the church and lit every candle in the place out of gratitude."

With the award under his belt, Claude is thinking of making an abrupt break with circus life.

"I'd like to get out," he said. "There's no future in it, not really. At least not a big future.

"What I'd like to do, I think, is move to the United States. Maybe I could become a wrestler, or even an actor."

His dad, however, has other ideas.

"I'd like my boy to have a perfectly formed mind, too," he said. "If we do move to America, I want him to go to college even though he's 22.

"A beautiful body is a wonderful thing. No one knows that better than I. But that's not all there is to life, and I want my boy to have the best life possible."

And how does Claude feel about this?

"Anything Dad says is okay with me," he said. "He may be small, but he's all man.

"And what he says around our house goes."

CLAUDE'S MOTHER was Mme. Serpenta, a snake charmer. This photo was taken from the family's album. "My mother," said Claude, "died when I was three years old."

Illustrated News - July 1965

PORT CLINTON HERALD

AND REPUBLICAN

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People . . . Personalities . . . Places

"Little People Of America" To Hold Three-Day Outing In Area

By BETTY WOOLLEY

"Little People of America" at the present time, are not too well known to the local area, but this will not be the case after Labor day weekend when club members will enjoy a three day outing in our Vacationland.

Fun and relaxation will be the order of the day when approximately 20 members from District 5 will come to swim, fish, go boating, take a ferry boat to Put-in-Bay, tour the Islands, and Sunday night in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Redmond, at 749 Taft street.

The club coming to Port Clinton has a particular local interest.

The membership is unique in that all are "Little People" who for one reason or another are considerably smaller than other people—only in stature. They are used to being referred to by the "big people" on occasion as midgets, not a term they use often in reference to themselves.

The special local angle is that member Edd Aring of Parma, O., is a brother of Mrs. Redmond, and is employed in the Parma office of the Standard Oil Co.

The organization was formed in 1955 in Las Vegas, Nevada by Billy Barry and incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1960. General purpose is to provide fellowship, interchange of ideas, solutions to the unique problems of a little person and moral support.

The mechanism for this is four fold: an annual convention, district meetings, a national newsletter and impromptu meetings.

Thru these contacts there is provided full measure of fellowship, discussion of problems common to the "little people" and social contacts greatly valued by members.

Who are the "Little People?"

They are accountants, bookkeepers, artists, clerks, secretaries, lawyers, watchmakers, students draftsmen, barbers, salesmen, builders, civil service employees, food store operators, engineers, bankers and many more.

One of the "little people" coming to Port Clinton will be Barbara Devolt of Cleveland, who is a dress designer for the Bobbie Brooks Co.

She stands a full 37 inches tall. Others will be coming from Chicago, New York, and New Jersey.

The club will welcome any "little people" in the area who care to join them. They may contact Mrs. Redmond.

Groop association shrh as these folks enjoy also provides opportunities such as where to buy small size shoes and clothing that really fit.

It is their philosophy that a small person can live in two worlds — s mall world and a normal world. A person who finds happiness in both worlds has nothing to lose to society or to himself.

But a person who hides in one of the two worlds must always live with the fear of evasion or contacts with the other world.

For this person there is no real truth — not even to himself.

"Little People" are used to living in the "big world" and often do not wish to admit to themselves that they differ from others.

Meeting together, discussing problems they face in daily living, opens up a world of understanding, friendship and enjoyment to members of "The Little People of America."

The Herald joins the community in extending the hand of friendship to this outstanding organization and wishes them a happy holiday in our midst.

20 'Little People' Plan Area Sojourn

Daily News Sept 1, 1965

Vacationland area, scene of countless summer gatherings, will welcome one of its most unusual this weekend. District 5 of Little People of America., Inc., will have a weekend outing here. All the guests are under five feet, but they hold responsible positions, many in professional careers.

Approximately 20 LPA members will arrive Saturday, going to Put - in- Bay on the 11 o'clock ferry from Catawba. Those from the Cleveland area will come in together, and the ferry is designated for meeting place for others.

Returning from the Bay, the Little People will go to Shelbo Cottages on Bay Shore Road, 3½ miles from Bay Bridge, where units are reserved for their week - end stay. They come back from the Bay on the 7 p.m. ferry after dining at the Island.

Swimming and beach activities, fishing and boating, will be Sunday activities. On Sunday evening, the LPA members come to Port Clinton to be guests of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Redmond, corner of Taft and Alice. Mrs. Redmond's brother, Ed Aring of Parma, is a member of LPA.

Afterwards they will enjoy varied recreation, including miniature golf. Monday they return nome.

Any potential member of Little People of America is cordially invited to join in the weekend activities. Mrs. Redmond may be contacted for further details. District 5 which is coming here, includes Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia.

Mrs. Redmond's brother is associated with Standard Oil of Cleveland in a responsible office position. Like many LPA members, he drives a car with special extensions.

Ohio Resort Hosts Little People Meet

By Press State Service

PORT CLINTON — The District 5 convention of the Little People of America ends here today after three days of activities and meetings.

About 20 people who are small in stature are attending from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky and West Virginia. he tallest delegate is 4½ feet.

The Jewel Box

— by —

Juel Reed Cover

To live in the normal size world, when for one reason or another you are considerably smaller in stature than most people, presents problems both physical and psychological that the average person never stops to think about.

The organization called Little People of America, Inc., which is holding a district outing here this week-end, is of untold value in this respect.

LPA members may be small in stature, but they are big in achievement. Their number includes acountants, bookkeepers artists, clerk, secretaries, lawyers, watchmakers, students, draftsmen, TV repairmen, barbers, salesmen, builders, civil service employees, food store operators, engineers, bankers — almost every occupation or employment you can think of.

Should you meet some of our Little People guests here this week-end, welcome them warmly. We're delighted they selected the Port Clinton area for their Labor Day gathering, and we hope their stay is an enjoyable one.

From Mrs. Glenn Redmond whose brother Ed Arling of Parma will be one of the LPA visitors, we learned much about the fascinating organization, Little People of America. LPA is divided into 14 districts, nation wide. Each district elects its own officers, and at the annual convention national officers are elected.

We think you'll be interested in this material, from an LPA Brochure:

It is often difficult for some of us to meet other little people for the first time. We are used to living in the "big world" and often do not wish to admit to ourselves that we are different from other people in some way. But regardless of this feeling, the same problems are present with each of us, and meeting others with those problems opens a new world of understanding, friendship and enjoyment.

For these reasons, Billy Barty, whom we all know from TV and movies, first led a small group of little people to meet in 1955. At Las Vegas in 1960, over 100 attended a national convention at which a constitution was adopted, the U.S. divided into districts and groundwork laid for incorporation as a non - profit organization — Little People of America, Inc.

The general purpose of LPA as we often call it is to provide fellowship, interchange of ideas, solutions to the unique problems of a little person and moral support. The mechanism for this is four-fold: An annual convention, annual (or in some cases, more often) district meetings, district and national newsletters and informal or impromptu private meetings between individuals.

What About The Children?

The small children, whether they have normal or small parents, are of great concern to us. Because they seem to gain as much or more than their elders from contact with other small children, they have their own program and activities in addition to the regular convention program. There is also a program planned for parents of these children providing opportunities for discussion of their special problems.

What can a little person gain from this Group?

There are many things. Association with others, which in turn will enable you to compare notes on problems and their solutions, knowledge of all the many other little people in the district and across the nation so that you may have the opportunity to meet them individually, a membership card, information on the best places to find things such as those small shoes, where to have clothes made that really fit, life insurance and many other things.

How can a little person be of service?

The ways are many. Most important, by example, you can offer encouragement and moral support to others. You may have the much needed information that another member seeks about clothes, jobs (very important, cars, education, houses and countless other things.

You may also know or happen to meet other little people who would welcome the chance to become a part of this group.

A Thought
By One Of Our Members

A small person can live in two worlds — a small world and a normal world. A person who finds happiness in both worlds has nothing to lose to society or himself. But a person who hides in one of the two worlds must always live with the fear of evasion or contact with the other world. For this person, there is no real truth — not even to himself."

September 1, 1965 - The Daily News - Sept 2, 1965

1965

BIG WEDDING — Marilyn England and Charles Mullens take marriage vows before the Rev. Dale Sexson of Burbank Church of Christ. Bride and groom, both midgets, exchanged vows Saturday. Bride is daughter of Mrs. Herbert Kinzel of 634 N. Pass Ave., Burbank, and attended John Burroughs High School.

The News photo

Wedding Bells Ring Out

LIKE MIDGET PLAY, BUT IT'S FOR REAL

The term "Little People" means something to everyone but to more than 1000 people in the nation it is the name of their social organization. It was at a meeting of the "Little People's Club" that Marilyn England, a John Burroughs High School student, first met Charles Mullens. Both midgets, they were united in matrimony Saturday in Burbank.

Mrs. Mullens, daughter of Mrs. Herbert Kinzel of 634 N. Pass Ave., is an active member of the organization and was a secretary in the "Little-Little Club" which is open to midgets under 16 years of age.

The newlyweds postponed their honeymoon so that they might attend the Little Peoples's Annual Convention in July at Phoenix, Ariz. The organization was founded in 1957 at the Reno, Nev., convention under the impetus of midget entertainer Billy Barty.

The aim of the organization is to provide a social organization for midgets and there is one chapter in the Los Angeles area which is very active, Mrs. Kinzel said.

She also has two other children who are midgets, Gordon 16, and Della 10. Gordon is a student at John Burroughs High School and Della is a student at Theodore Roosevelt school.

Mullins 26, is a machinist with Deutch Controls Co., in Los Angeles. He is a graduate of Bellflower High School and had been going with Miss England since last December.

The happy "Little People" will make their home in Bellflower.

New York Sunday News - August 22, 1965

Hormones add 11 inches to man's height

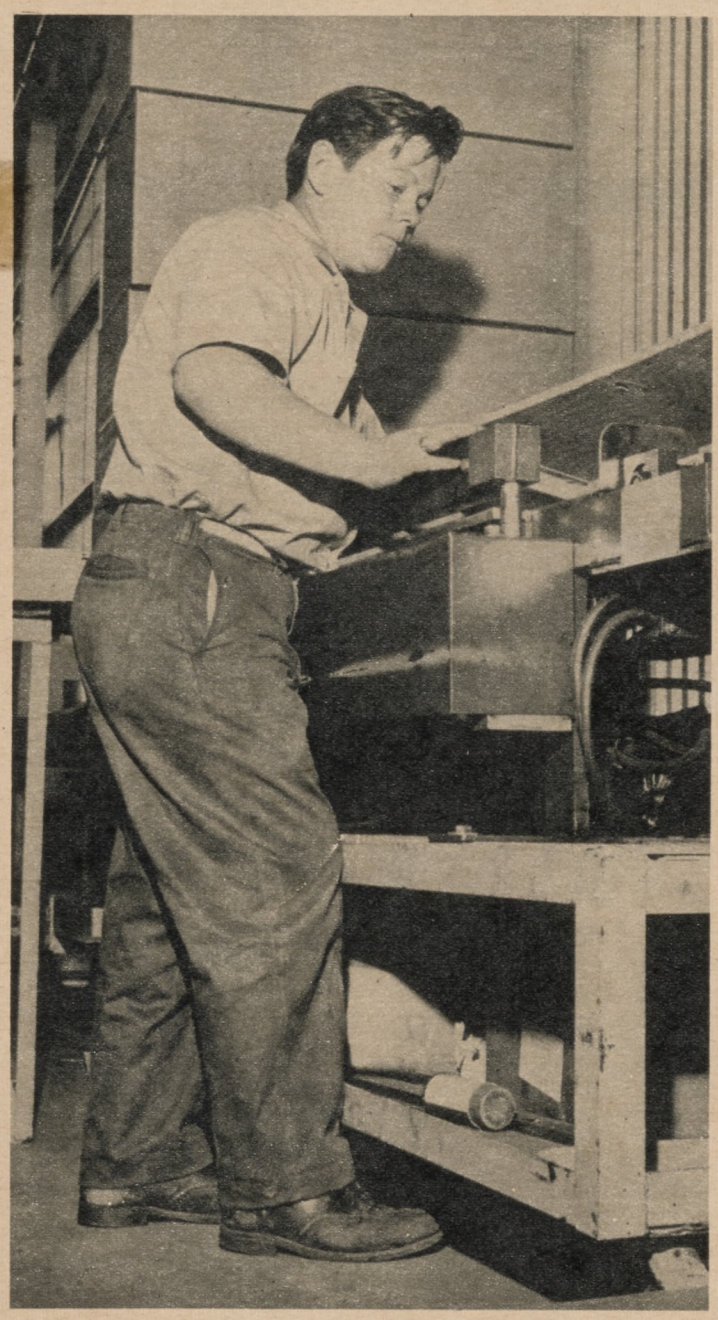
A GROWING INTEREST

It was small consolation when the pint-sized Virgil Anderson won a model boat regatta at 15 on the West Coast.

Dr. Willard VanderLaan studies experiments that may aid people with growth problems.

SHORT-CHANGED by nature, Virgil Anderson, 22, is now in a higher bracket heightwise, thanks to Dr. Willard VanderLaan, head of the Division of Endocrinology at Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, Calif.

Virgil's family is of normal height, but at 17, he stood only 4'4" tall. Over a period of years he received injections of hormones and 11 inches were added to his growth. The treatments, which combine pituitary gland extract and sex hormones, duplicate natural secretions of the body, which in midgets cease to function at all.



At work on metal stamping machine, Virgil thanks treatments for his added stature. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to hold this job.

UPI FOTOS

Virgil (at right), goes over scrapbook with other members of his family who are completely normal in height. His brother is Johnny, 18 (left); sister, Kandy, 15; father, Virgil Sr., and mother, Mrs. Shirley Anderson.

Minneapolis Tribune - July 31, 1966

The Hammond Times
Hammond Ind. Aug. 13, 1966

PICNIC TREATS—~~James Hagan, Eileen Shanahon~~ and ~~Bonnie Norton~~ Paul Dalnegre Jean Michaels Donna Michaels were in charge of the barbecue for a picnic and meeting of the Indiana Chapter of Little People of America. About 12 Little People from Indiana and Illinois and 17 of their "big relatives" attended the event at Wicker Park. Sue Horkavich of Hammond is the leader of the local organization.

FINISHED — Jerry Maluchnik and Buster Williams sample the finished products. Two future events were planned by the group. A barbecue will be Aug. 27 at the home of James Hagan of Lombard, Ill. A harvest-time party and dancing will be held in Hammond on Oct. 8.

Two of the "Little People" attending a convention in the Hacienda are twins Dorene and Darlene Howsden of Hayward, juniors at Chabot College, San Leandro. Wally Pitchford assisted in registering midgets and dwarfs for meeting.

Little People Hold Conclave in Bakersfield

Little People of America, an organization of dwarfs and midgets, is holding a district convention this week end at the Hacienda Hotel.

The meeting is the third annual District 12 convention of the group, composed of delegates from California, Hawaii, and Nevada.

Billy Barty, star of a children's show on KTTV in Los Angeles, is convention chairman.

Mayor Russel V. Karlen, Kern County Dist. Atty. Kit Nelson and Dr. Ruth Michaelson, will speak before the group.

The annual north versus south baseball game will be held at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at Standard Park, Oildale.

The organization, which boasts national membership of 2,000, is concerned with the education of its members, and the con-

The Bakersfield Californian
Sept. 4 1965

Area's Hospitality Appreciated

Little People Conclude Outing

"We can do anything except grow tall."

The words came from four-feet tall Eleanor Osterow of Brooklyn, New York, who was one of 23 members of a unique organization called Little People of America, Inc. in the Port Clinton area this weekend for a three-day outing.

As an assistant in the office of Brooklyn College, dark haired Eleanor is representative of the courage and the achievements of the men and women whose membership in LPA gives them a common ground of fellowship.

Her words are echoed by all the LPA members, whose occupations represent a wide variety of careers.

Chairman of District 5 which convened here this weekend, along with guests from other districts, is Paul Jones of 10983 Mayfield Road in Chardon. He is a material control supervisor. Immediate past chairman is Barbara DeVolt of Cleveland, who at three - feet six inches is one of the tinest members of the organization, but who carries on a successful career as a free-lance fashion illustrator. The Bobby Brooks line of clothes is among her accounts.

Edward Aring of Parma, who is a brother of Mrs. Glenn Redmond of Port Clinton, is a laboratory control clerk for Standard Oil in Cleveland, and has his own office. Vito Zella of Dayton is a busboy at Holiday Inn. Little Chathy Schuster of Bay Village attends Dyke Business College in Cleveland.

Here from Wilmington, Delaware, were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spector. Mr. Spector, who holds a PhD. degree, has an important position as a patent chemist. Ann Cleary of Nyk, New York, is a secretary and bookkeeper. Herbie Williamson of Wooster, Mass., is a police dispatcher.

Jackie Robson of Lake Forrest, Ill., teaches school. Michael Ryan, of Columbus, is a barber and attends college. Richie Hayman of Brooklyn, New York, is a machine shop inspector. Diane Rimar, of Detroit, is a business school student. Harold Schulman, of Brooklyn, is a junior accountant for Pan - American Airlines. Harriet Hoppert of Milwaukee, Wis. is a primary school teacher.

★ ★ ★

FROM LEFT: Edward Aring, Parma, his sister, Mrs. Glenn Redmond of 749 Taft St., and Paul Jones, of Chardon, chairman of District 5, Little People of America, Inc.

Michael Roche, of Flushing, N.Y., attends college. Joseph Steinberg, of Nyk, N. Y., is a microfilm operator.

Three family combinations were in the group. Herman Lefkoff, of Bronx, N.Y., a bookkeeper, was here with his daughter Susan, a high school student. At 16 years, Susan was the youngest LPA visitor. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lentinr came from Auburn, N.Y. He is in maintainence work, and is a factory assembler. Mr. and Mrs Bob Rayburn, of Oregon represented the only couple in which one is an LPA member — Mrs. Rayburn —, while the other is normal stature.

The LPA members left yesterday for their respective homes, enthusiastic in their praises for the hospitality in this area. They arrived Saturday morning and went to Put-in-Bay on the 11:00 ferry. Touring the island in a fleet of cabs, they visited Perry's Monument, a winery, and dined at Castle Inn before returning at 7 p.m., to go to Shelbo Cottages in Danbury Township where units were awaiting them. On Sunday, the Little People enjoyed beach activities and water sports including boat rides offered by interested cottage occupants.

"We'll never forget how wonderful everybody has been," said the departing visitors.

They were particularly appreciative to Port Clinton's Glenn Redmond family. Mrs. Redmond stocked their cottage units with food for the weekend stay and on Sunday evening the entire group of small visitors was entertained at the Redmond home with a buffet supper.

The problems of the small in stature make a common bond between these men and women, all of them under four feet ten inches. One, a college student who uses a golf cart to travel about her campus, is two feet nine inches.

But they must make their living in the world of the Big People, and with courage, good humor and ingenuity they adapt "big" things for their use. In their LPA association, formed in 1955, they exchange ideas and experiences on how to do it.

"Reaching is always a problem," says little Barbara DeVolt, whose past district chairmanship brought a staggering increase in LPA membership. There were only three paid-up LPA members when she took over in the six - state district area as chairman; there are now 48. There are 2,000 nationally.

Most of the Little People drive cars, equipped with extensions of course.

Getting a job is often difficult, to begin with. Employers hesitate over the problems which might arise when Little People work in a business or office geared for the Big People. But the dependability, the excellent work, and the performance the Little People turn in — as evidenced by the career standing of those here this week — are quickly found out.

"All we need is a chance," says Ed Aring, whose oil company career is a successful one.

Clothes are a never - ending problem, particularly shoes. Many need a child's size, in length; but a combination last and a width wider than is available in store - bought. The only recourse is to have their shoes specially made.

"These don't look like $48, but that's what they cost," said Arling, extending a neat black-shod foot. Barbara's red scandals, specially made, had cost $50.

Women can easily have their clothing made, when they can't find ready - made attire in children's sizes which is suitable. Some of the men can buy ready - made clothes by having extensive alterations of plants legs and sleeves; others need to have everything custom made.

The study of dwarfism has received a great impetus since the organization of Little People of America. Headliners at their recent national convention in New Jersey were several doctors, whose talks touched on various aspects.

Several of the LPA members here are subjects for continuing study by the medical profession.

LPA members welcome warmly any small - in - stature individual, and district chairman Paul Jones at the Chardon address listed above may be contacted.

But don't plan on contacting him in November.

LPA District 5 chairman Jones and LPA District 2 chairman Eleanor Ostrow — who met through the Little People organization — are being married November 20, and they will live in Maple Heights.

The Daily News - Sept 7, 1965

Post 9/20/65

Undersized Citizens Small in Stature Only

The Washington Post Sept 20, 1965

By Willard Clopton
Washington Post Staff Writer

The group seated around Roy Bridges' living room at 2305 Skyland Place was having a pretty ordinary Sunday afternoon get-together.

There were pretzels, corn chips and potato salad and beer and cola and some emphatic remarks about the heat and the Redskins, and lots of laughter.

It could have been a scene from a cigarette commercial on TV, except for one thing: None of the 15 or so men and women in the room stood much taller than Roy Bridges' front door knob.

For this was a meeting of the Baltimore Chapter, Little People of America Inc., a group whose members are like anybody else except that bad genes or glands kept them from growing tall.

They gather now and then to socialize and talk over the peculiarities of life in a world of giants, where chairs and stairs and mailboxes and elevator buttons are too high, where merchandise in stores is out of reach and phone booths without seats seem like the work of the devil.

"Clothing is the worst thing," said Harold Schulman, 23, one of a carload of New Yorkers who drove down for the gathering in a car specially equipped for a short-legged driver. He is an accountant and stands 4 feet, 2 inches. He explained:

"You can't just go in a store and pick a suit off the rack. There are always extensive alterations to be made, and often you need to have it specially made."

There's a sterotype problem, said Bridges, 43, who stands 4 feet 6 and is the group's secretary-treasurer.

"A lot of people think most little people are in show business. Actually, few are. In this room, for instance, we have accountants, a chemist, a draftsman, secretaries and a college student. I'm a legal clerk at the Justice Department."

Surprisingly, little people seldom get picked on by criminals, he said.

"I've walked through some pretty bad parts of town, and nobody ever bothered me. Maybe they're afraid I'm a midget wrestler and they'd get flipped," he said, grinning.

Robert Spector, 32 and 4 feet 5 is the chemist. He works for duPont in Wilmington and has a Ph. D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

"Some jobs would be difficult for us, like being a salesman," he said. "But if you have talent and persevere, it is possible to live a normal, successful life."

Pat Londregan, 21 and 4 feet 2, is a counselor at a Catholic orphanage in White Plains, N.Y. She works with children age 2 to 5, some of whom are as tall as she.

"There's no problem" she said. "They ask and I say that's the way God made me, and that's it."

Most in the room had parents and siblings of normal height. Several admitted going through a period of bitterness before arriving at self-acceptance.

LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA LIKE THE AREA

By BETTY WOOLLEY

The "Little People of America" invaded Port Clinton over the Labor day week end for a three day regional meeting, fun and relaxation. This reporter was privileged to meet and interview them on Sunday evening in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Redmond, 749 Taft street.

Who are the "little people" and how did they happen to come to our town?

Port Clinton, because of its wide reputation, is accustomed to being singled out as a vacation-land by hundreds of thousands of people each summer.

It has, however, never played host to the group known as "The Little People" until the holiday week end.

The group is a most charming one, ranging in ages from 16 to 40 years. The men's height averages 4 feet 5 inches, and the women 4 feet 1 inch. If they stand taller than 4 feet 10 inches they are considered normal height and are ineligible to join the organization formed in 1960 and known as "The Little People of America."

"Achondroplasia" is the medical term for the differences in the little people from those of normal size. Glandular deficiencies are the most common cause of the diminutive size of those known as midgets, usually small statured people and well proportioned in features.

Those known as dwarfs are affected in size with varying types of "dwarfism" by "Achondroplasia," which in turn brings about joint problems, adding to the others which affect "the little people", the name they far prefer, to the terms midget or dwarf.

The dwarf type usually have nearly normal bodies but small legs and arms.

Though employment has changed drastically for the little people in past years when they were forced to go into show business as a means of livelihood, opportunities are still a major concern to them.

The end of vaudeville era about 20 years ago brought about changes in the work picture, but there are many yet to come.

Accomplishing this is one of the prime purposes of the organization known as "The Little People of America."

District 5 was the host group which spent three days in our area. It is headed by Paul Jones, who resides at 10983 Mayfield Drive, Chardon, O.

We found Paul a most interesting personality, full of enthusiasm for the club he heads as chairman, and for life in general. This same attitude was reflected in the 24 "little people" we spoke to Sunday evening.

Paul, one of the spark plugs, and a very popular fellow, is a graduate of Newberry College in Geauga county and employed as a material control supervisor for API Instruments Co., in Chesterland.

When I arrived at the Redmond home, the little people were having a ball game, as well as other activities out of doors.

Edward Aring of Parma, is the brother of Mrs. Glenn Redmond and an active member of the organization. He too is one of the little people, who has made the adjustments in his life, emerging as a successful, confident human being, not content to bewail his lot because of his stature but to use the talents God gave him and build the best life possible.

Ed is laboratory control clerk in the Cleveland office of Sohio No. 2 Refinery, a position he has held for 13½ years.

(I noticed that his size mattered not a whit to the Redmond girls who were fluttering around him and hugging him as all girls do to a favorite uncle).

Adding to the occasion held in Port Clinton was the fact that members of two other districts of "The Little People of America" were here, District 2 whose chairman is Eleanor Ostrow of Brooklyn, N.Y., and District 6 headed by Harriet Hoppert of Milwaukee, Wis.

Of the group of 24 in the Redmond home, 12 had attended college. Their abilities and versatility is evident.

Harriet Hoppert, Milwaukee, is a school teacher; Michael Ryan, Columbus, barber for 4 years and attends college for a B.A. in marketing; Barbara DeVolt, Cleveland, freelance fashion illustrator; Kathy Schuster, Bay Village, attends Dyke Business College in Cleveland; Jackie Robson, of Lake Forest, Ill., school teacher;

Michael Roche, Flushing, N. Y., college student; Joseph Steinberg, New York, N.Y., clerk and microfilm operator for the New York City Dept. of Health; Harold Schulman, Brooklyn, N. Y., junior accountant for Pan American Airways; Frank Lentine, Auburn, N. Y., maintenance work; Emma Lentine, Auburn, N.Y., assembler in factory; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spector, Wilmington, Del. Mr. Spector has a PhD degree and is associated with DuPont as a patent chemist; Vito Zella, Dayton, works for Holiday Inn in Dayton; Eleanor Ostrow, Brooklyn, N.Y., office assistant in Brooklyn College.

Diane Rimar, Retroit, student; Richie Heyman, Brooklyn, N.Y., inspector in a machine shop; Herman Lefkoff, Bronx, N. Y., bookkeeper; Paul F. Jones, Chardon, material control supervisor; Ann Cleary, New York, N.Y., secretary and bookkeeper; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rayburn, Oregon, O.; Herbert Williamson, Worchester, Mass, Police Dispatcher; Susan Lefkoff, New York, high school student; Edward Aring, Parma, laboratory control clerk, Sohio.

What represents the most hardship for the little person? First and foremost, is the fact that employers should be willing to give them opportunity to prove themselves in their fields.

The group were very vocal on this subject, saying that though this has improved in recent years, there is still much to be done. They said employers are prone to underestimate the intelligence and capabilities of the little person purely on the basis of his size. They want no undue favors, just the opportunity as offered to any person.

Prejudice is another factor which makes life difficult for some of the little people. They want to be accepted by scciety on the same basis the normal size person is accepted.

Some said they had trouble entering high school because an administrator felt it unwise. One said she was told by an art teacher that she could never do art in school because "she was so small she could not make large brush strokes."

Fortunately they were proven wrong on all counts. Some of the group were certain they would never have gone to high school except that their praents put up a fight that they be permitted to attend.

Mike Ryan said he had done barbering for 4 years. He stands on a stool, and has won a following of satisfied patrons. Now he is attending St. Mary's of the Springs college near Columbus, and will seek a degree in marketing.

One girl told with great humor, how she learned that a meeting was called where she was employed, because the company personnel feared she would create a traffic hazard.

Most of the little people live their lives in the same pattern as their noarmal size friends, swimming, bowling, dancing, drive their own cars, with the addition of extension pedals.

One of the problems is buying clothes, since a company will manufacture the needed attire for a time and then quit. Men seem to have the most trouble buying clothes. Eddie Aring, brother of Mrs. Redmond, said his custom made shoes cost him $45 a pair.

Barbara DeVolt, who works in the fashion world as an illustrator for Bobbie Brooks in Cleveland, has trouble finding clothes for her dainty 37 inch height, as well as shoes.

She is a mainspring in the organization and past chairman of District 5. Her enthusiasm has rubbed off on many other members as well as encouraging others to join.

The club has been helpful to many by offering social opportunities to some whose lives were lonely before. They feel the teen years are the most difficult to the small person.

Though the club is in no way a matrimonial bureau or matchmaking society Dan Cupid has made himself known on occasion.

Dark haired Eleanor Ostrow of New York flashes a beautiful diamond engagement ring she has received from Paul Jones.

Children of the little people who will also be smaller than normal sized children, are referred to by their parents as "Little Littles." Some give birth to "little littles" and normal size babies. Little people cannot adopt normal size children.

However, the organization has a committee which helps find "little littles" for the small people who for some reason or another can't have children of their own.

The organization's national president is Lee Kitchens of Richardson, Texas, an executive for Texas Instruments, who flies his own plane. He and his wife have adopted two "little littles."

"Little People of America" was officially organized in 1960 in Las Vegas, Nev., and has benefitted many lives and enriched them beyond measure. Though small in stature the little people are large in intelligence and heart.

Port Clinton Herold * Sept. 10, 1965

People . . . Personalities . . . Places

When the "Little People of America" gathered here over the weekend for an outing they were hosted at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Redmond, 749 Taft street Sunday evening. Mrs. Redmond is shown standing in front of her brother, Edward Aring of Parma, O.

Port Clinton Herold
September 10, 1965

The little sports world of John Bruce Lee, Sacramento High School basketball sophomore, has been invaded by Chip Brunello, a 4-2, 103 pound junior wrestler at Norte Del Rio. Brunello is shown at the left with heavyweight Randy Gale, an all city football tackle. Lee, 4-1 and 95 pounds, is pictured wi · the Dragons' top scorer George Bradley. Bee Photos

'Little Guys' Play Big Role In Sports

By Ben Swesey

Sure, it must be great to be a seven foot basketballer or a muscular, 200-pound wrestler.

But being "a little guy" has its advantages, too.

Take 4-1 Sacramento High School cager John Bruce Lee for instance.

"He confuses the heck out of the other teams," says Dragon Coach Bob Linck. "He's so short and quick, they don't know which way he's going to go next."

And then there is Louis "Chip" Brunello, a 4-2, 103-pound wrestler at Norte Del Rio.

"Most of the boys are used to wrestling others their own size," said Brunello's coach, John Lim, "so when they're down on the mat and go to reach for Chip's legs, there's nothing there but air.

Where'd He Go?

"And with Chip's short legs, he can scamper out from underneath an opponent in no time at all."

Sacramento's shortest athletes are both "one of the guys" and do well at their respective sports.

Lee is only a sophomore and divides his time on the junior varsity and varsity squads. His biggest feat to date has been sinking a 15-foot one handed push shot against Bishop Armstrong.

"Shooting is the best part of my game," said Bruce, as he is called by his friends. "I like jump shots."

Brunello, a junior, turned out for the first time this season.

"Last year I couldn't compete because I had an operation on my back," he said.

Chip placed second in his weight division during a wrestling tournament when he was in the ninth grade at Valley Vista Junior High School, and he's loved the sport ever since.

'Pride Of Team'

Lim said Brunello is "the pride of the team and a very determined wrestler. When Chip's in action all of the boys gather around to cheer him on. I suppose mostly they're impressed because he doesn't seem to be handicapped by his size.

"His only weakness is that he can be rolled too easily, especially if an opposing player knows how to use his leverage. He can overcome that, though, by not getting in so close."

Brunello has been Norte's top wrestler in the 103-pound in four out of the Dons' eight meets.

Prospective Baseballers

Both boys don't limit themselves to one sport. In fact coaches Angelo Costello of Norte and Dave Hotell of SHS have invited their lads to try out for baseball.

Lee was a second baseman and pitcher in the Western Little League and Brunello played second and center field in the Arden Little League. Both would make ideal lead-off men.

Bruce also bowls — "I average 140" — golfs — "I shoot about 10 over par for 18 holes" — skis — "anytime I can" and swims. "You name it and I can do it," he laughed.

Chip enjoys playing sandlot football and water skiing. His family owns a boat and spends a lot of time at Folsom Lake and on the Sacramento River.

Gets Good Grades

Lee, who carries a B average, plans to attend college and would like to be a drafting engineer or professional musician.

Bruce plays the organ with his musical group, The Paragons. For a while he sported a Beatle haircut as part of a gimmick with the rest of his band. "It kind of gave a bad impression so I cut it off," he remarked. "Now I've got a human haircut."

Chip, a C average student, intends to go "to college or a business school." His ambition is to be an accountant.

Lee and Brunello may be little, but they're "big" on the local prep sports scene.

The Sacramento Bee
Calif, Jan. 20, 1966

When Little People Get Together

They See Eye to Eye—Literally

By BOB FULLERTON

If you're big people, you know how it is with those tired old saws, like, "How's the weather up there buddy."

It's worse if you're small, perhaps tiny, because you couldn't take a poke at a guy's nose if you wanted to when he says, "Hi'ya, short stuff."

WHEN THE Little People of America get together, thank goodness, the jokes end and everybody sees things eye to eye—literally.

But that's the purpose of the whole thing—little people get tired of looking up, says Miss Kathleen "Didi" Sass of the 500 block S. Oldham St.

Didi stands a diminutive 4-foot even. At that height you don't look down on mnay people.

"THE ONLY time I feel big is when I'm around my 'blood sister,' Sharon Carrier," Didi said. "She's 3-foot-10 inches, and when I get around her I feel like a gawk." The two are members of the Baltimore-Washington LPA, composed of some 25 dwarfs, midgets and other small people.

The organization is part of a nationwide one, formed in 1955, and now swelled to some 1,800 members. The only requirement for joining is that you be small.

Unlike most clubs, it's primary function is just to be.

"It's a group that provides fellowship for us little people," Didi said. "When you live in a big world it's like you're being smothered, overrun.

"WHEN WE get together it's another world," she added. "The thing is, you forget you're small and there's a sense of humor about it."

According to Didi, the club is only interested in the people it doesn't have. Joining it can literally mean the beginning of a new world.

"When I was in school, I heard about the club but wouldn't join it," she said. "My advisor virtually tired to shove it down my throat and I'm not one to have things forced on me."

"THE DAY I joined, however, things started to change," she said. "From then on it wasn't just living day to day. Each day had a purpose."

Getting others to believe that is the problem, Didi said. A lot of little people just won't buy the idea. Didi says when they do, a "lot of those little" things that happen when you're small don't matter as much.

And all sorts of embarrassing things happen.

FOR INSTANCE, there was the waitress who "quaked" when a group of little people came in to be served. Another man who fell down a staircase when he got two look - a - like little people interchanged. The job interviewer "who looked at me like I just fell out of the sky."

"When you go to the store," Didi said, "things are always on the top shelf."

Didi, 21, takes most things philosophically nowadays. It wasn't always that way.

"IT'S TOUGH to take some of the ridicule about midgets and such when you're a kid," Didi said. "That's one of the reasons the LPA aims at children. It helps them to adjust and emphasizes the value of an education.

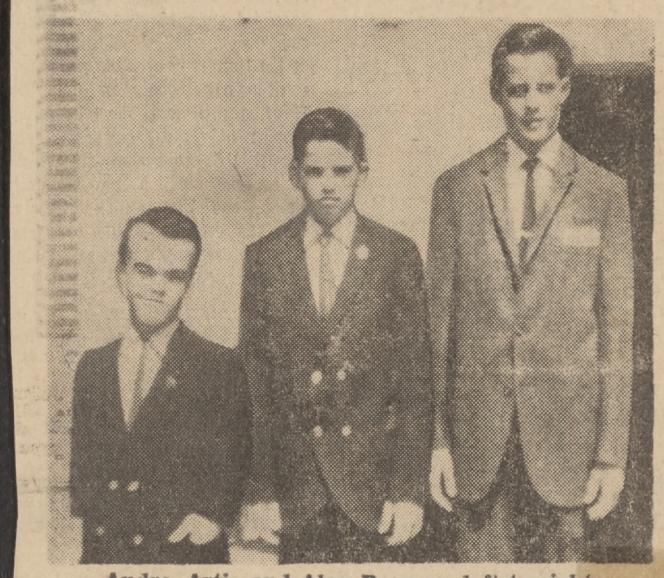
Dispite what you might think, we can do almost everything other, normal people do," she continued. Only in professions where size and strength are prime considerations are little people excluded, she said.

If you happen to be little people, Didi encourages you to come to the next LPA meeting at noon Sunday at 510 S. Oldham St.

TUNE UP FOR "LITTLE PEOPLE'S" MEET
. . . *Kathleen Sass (l.) and Sharon Carrier.*
—News American Staff Photo.

Herald Examiner - MARCH 17, 1966

Pro Deo et Patria Awards to Be Given To Three Brothers



Andre, Artie and Alan Boursee, left to right

By ALMA MAY COOK

Unusual in the annals of the Boy Scouts will be the ceremony to be held in the Valley Lutheran Church of North Hollywood tomorrow at 9 a.m. when three boys, brothers, will receive the coveted Pro Deo et Patria award. Andre, Alan and Artie Boursse, members of Troop 63, will be the honored trio.

Sons of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Boursse, Andre, 17, and Alan and Artie, 15-year-old twins, have worked diligently both in the Scouting degrees and in the special 150-hour church assignments and leadership leading to the For God and Country Honor.

Andre and Alan are Eagle Scouts and Artie is a Star Scout. All three are students in the Polytechnic High School of Sun Valley and carry a full load of school studies in which they have achieved high honors.

Andre is 4 feet 5 is active in the Little People Organization where he is chairman of a teenage group. Artie, 5 feet 7, and Alan, 6 feet 1, the twins, have been active in school organizations and all are preparing for science and industrial careers. Rev. T. S. Severtson, the pastor, will present the boys for the citations and medals. A fourth son, Pierre, 13, is working for the Scout degrees.

The ceremony tomorrow will mark the unusual event of three boys receiving the honor at one service in addition to being brothers.

The News American - Baltimore
January 23, 1966

What Lent Means to Me

By ANDRE BOURSSE

Senior, Sun Valley Polytechnic High School. Recent Recipient Pro Deo et Patria Boy Scout Award. Secretary Teenage Group, Little People of Hollywood, Member Valley Lutheran Church.

Once a year marks the most noble event in the history of mankind — our Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross to save the people of the world from our sins.

Andre Boursse

Lent is the season when we should all be thankful that God is able to forgive the sins of our daily lives.

Just to think mentally of the third day when Jesus rose again inspires me and is a living joy.

I think of Jesus as the most powerful and unique man God ever put on this body of land. Unique in a way that no man will ever be duplicated like that again. Not even science could produce such a dynamic figure as Jesus Christ.

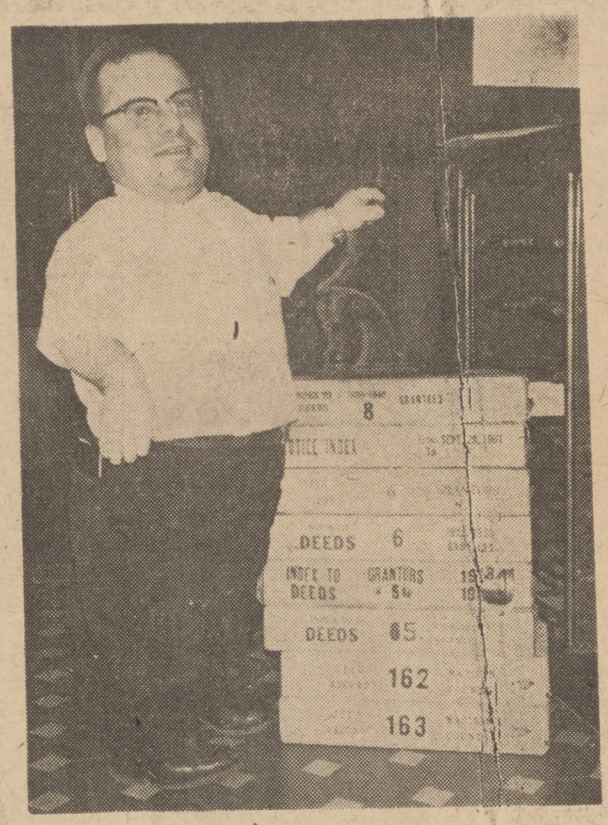
When I go to church I am not going just because my friends are going, but to recreate and reason in my mind the time Jesus Christ gave up His life to save us from our sins.

March 17, 1966
Herald Examiner

Herald Examiner - Feb. 12, 1966

Pint-Sized Royalty

The newly crowned king and queen of the Little People of America — made up of midgets and dwarfs — meet their court after their coronation at the 1967 convention in Los Angeles. The royal couple each stand less than 4 feet tall. In fact, the queen, 26-year-old Mrs. Freida Groenveld, of Tacoma, Wash., is 3 feet 11 inches tall; and the king, Felix Silla, 30, of North Hollywood, Calif., is 3 feet 10 inches tall. Frieda is a kindergarten teacher and doesn't stand much higher than her pupils.



BIG ENOUGH—William F. McGuire of London, who will become Ohio's smallest recorder Jan. 4, is familiarizing himself with office records and trying out the recorder's official seal.—(Dispatch Photo)

MADISON RECORDER

Little Bill Set For Big Job at London

By DAN CLANCY, Dispatch Staff Writer

LONDON, Ohio—There'll be a big change here Jan. 4 when 44-inch-tall William F. McGuire takes over as Ohio's smallest county recorder from Madison County's longest-time office holder, Norman Jones.

Little Bill, 37, scored a big victory in November, defeating his Democratic opponent by over 2500 votes, despite campaign talk about need of a big man for a big job. Voters decided that McGuire was plenty big enough for the job.

McGUIRE, ADMINISTRATIVE clerk for the City of London in 1958-59, became deputy clerk of Madison County Court in 1959 and court clerk in 1962.

County Court Judge Robert W. Murray praises McGuire as pleasant, efficient and largely responsible for the court's record system which has been widely copied.

McGuire, who drives his own specially-equipped car and lives in a full-size house with miniature furnishings, is a past president of the London Junior Chamber of Commerce and a former secretary of the local Eagles and Knights of Columbus.

OUT-GOING RECORDER Norman Jones, 59, has been recorder for 30 years. He will go into the real estate business.

Jones' wife, Hortense, and daughter, Mrs. Carolyn Snell, will continue as deputy recorders.

1966

LOTS OF ROOM FOR LITTLE GUYS — John Bruce Lee stands only 4 feet 1 inch tall, but he finds there's plenty of room in basketball for the little guys, and above he demonstrates. He is the smallest player ever to perform for the Sacramento High School basketball varsity squad. In his first six games he was held scoreless, but in the seventh he scored on a 15-foot jump shot. The crowd went wild, including the cheerleader of the opposing team. She's John's sister. (AP Wirephoto)

Little People Have Difficulty Adjustiing to Big World

Using Pay Phone Is Quite a Task

By MYRON KALINA
Of The Sunday Patriot-News

The shortest convention in the world ended here today.

A small group which calls itself the Little People of America today wound up business at its eastern regional meeting in the Nationwide Inn and put the cap on a big weekend.

"It's a small world" isn't a cliche to LPA members, it's an untruth, according to George A. Baehm III, of Great Neck, N.Y., eastern public relations director of the group and just a shade over four feet tall.

"ACTUALLY, it's a big, big world," Baehm said, his statement accompanied by a chorus of serious nods from a handful of other LPA members sitting around him.

"Little people have a lot of difficulty adjusting to the big world around them. Simple things to big people, like using a pay phone, for example, can be a monumental task to us," he said.

"Or take parking meters. You can imagine how tough it must be to put money in them from way down here. Elevators give us trouble, too."

Bahm said when boarding an elevator he doesn't have much trouble reaching the lower buttons, but when he wants to get to a top floor, well . . .

"I always carry a coat hanger with me specifically to use to punch top elevator buttons. Then when I'm through, I just leave the hanger there."

HIS WIFE, Christina, short, (3'6") but big on personality, said one LPA member aided fellow members greatly by inventing a telescopic device which enables them to insert coins in telephones without using a stool or chair.

"But before you get the coin in," Baehm said, sighing deeply, "the first problem is getting the phone down. You have to maneauver the end of the device to knock the phone from the hook and then you try to catch it when it falls down. Once this is done, you use the coin-sorting device to put the money in, then to dial."

Another member remarked jokingly that when a "big people" gets a wrong number and must dial again, he might get a little upset. But to a little person, this could spell disaster.

AN OUTSIDER might think that LPA members drive cars so small that if you empty the ashtrays you get five more miles to the gallon.

But Baehm exploded that belief:

"Actually, the great majority of little people drive big cars with special extensions on the pedals rather than those little cars, "mainly because smaller cars are for some reason, more difficult to adapt than larger ones. One of our members out in California who adapts cars for us as a hobby never had difficulty altering the big ones, but when he tried to alter a small foreign job recently, he ran into all sorts of trouble."

ANOTHER problem is clothes:

"We don't wear children's clothes," Baehm said. "Mainly because they make us look too young. We buy adult clothes and get them altered, and I'm not using that term loosely. I do mean ALTERED! And this runs into a lot of money."

Despite the fact that life is a constant battle for the little people and everything is either too tall or too deep, on the surface the group seemed a happy lot, intoxicated with life.

"Our motto is 'Think big' " Mrs. Baehm said, flashing a little smile.

The organization was originated in 1955 by Billy Barty of television and movie fame. It has since grown to include 1,500 active members across the country in all walks of life.

MEMBERSHIP IN LPA is open to anyone 4'10" and under and the group is especially looking for young members.

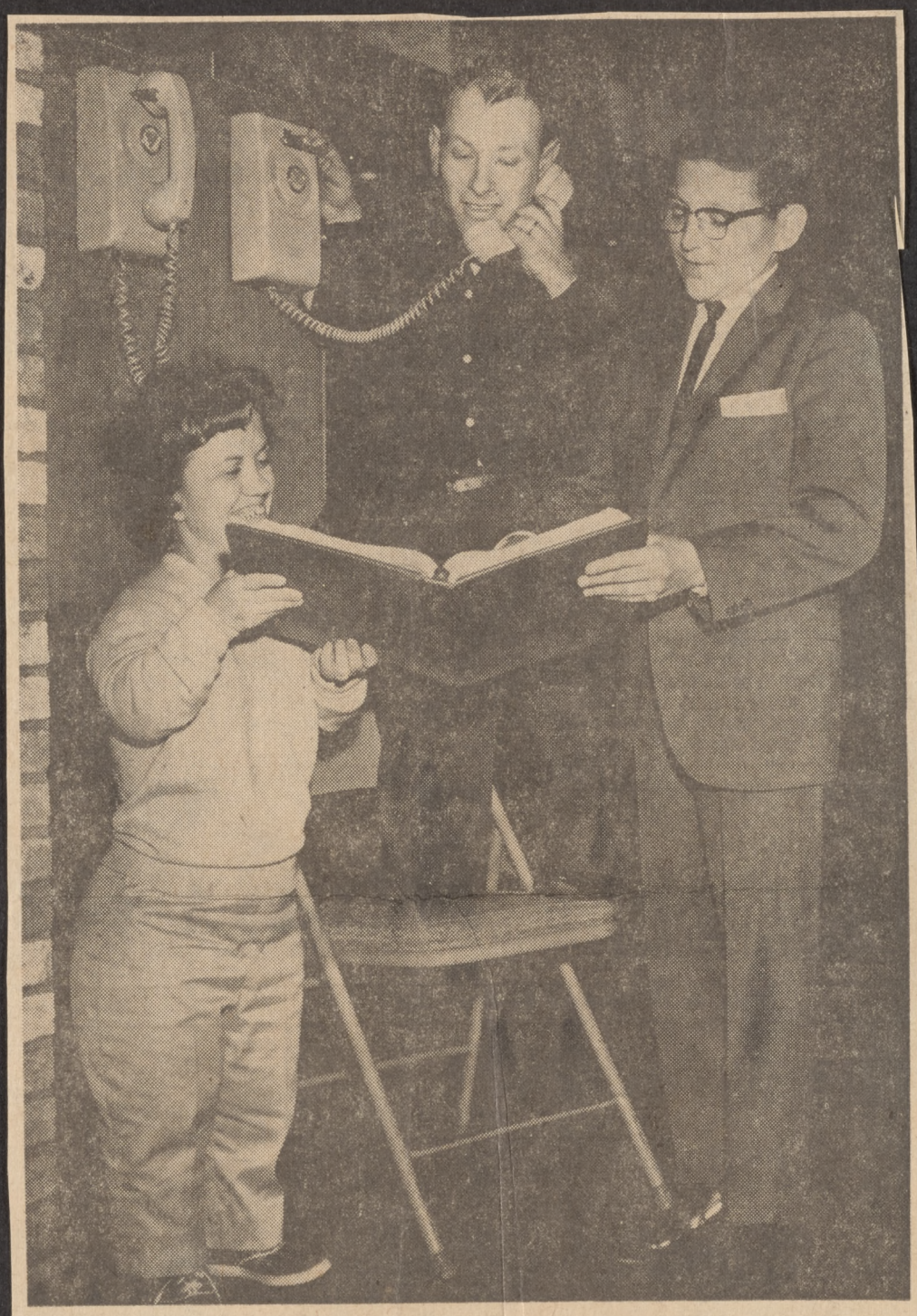
"The organization really does a lot for little people," said active member Martin Mazik, a tailor from Pittsburgh. "It gives us a chance to meet others and helps us adjust to the big world and the small world."

Baehm added that at many of the district meetings, usually held weekly, many members have met their husbands or wives.

AND MOST married members, he said, are inseparable.

"Take my wife, for example," Baehm said. "She works for me as my secretary and we're never apart.

"If I ever lost Christina here," he said, patting her affectionately on the shoulder, "why, I'd never be able to find her!"



—Sunday Patriot-News Photo

Making a Short Call

George A. Baehm III, of Long Island, public relations director of the Eastern region of the Little People of America, takes out time at the region's convention at the Nationwide Inn to make a phone call. With him are his wife, Christina, and member Martin Mazik, of Pittsburgh.

Who's Handicapped?

By JUDY THURMAN

IN 1941 Frances Carney enrolled in business college.

"I thought if I were a little bit better than the other applicants, I would have a chance of getting a job."

After working 45 days without pay in the office of the State Vocational Rehabilitation Division to prove her worth, Frances got a job. She's been there for 24 years.

—Staff photos by J. T. Phillips

With the aid of gas and brake pedal extensions Frances Carney, who enjoys her freedom too much to depend on others for rides, can drive the 32-mile round trip to work.

The only reason Frances was worried she wouldn't be employed is—at least statistically—she is handicapped. She stopped growing at age six and stands only 48 inches tall.

"But I've never felt handicapped," says Frances, who, ironically, has just been named Handicapped Woman of the Year by the Davidson County Business and Professional Women's Club.

"MY PARENTS taught me from the first that I was as capable as anyone else. They encouraged me to develop individuality, and, most of all, not to be afraid to go out and be among other people."

Frances, who attends conventions of the Little People of America, feels that the dwarfs and midgets who have deep personal problems in adjusting are those who have been overly protected by their parents.

"You have to get out and forget your problem."

Does she wince when strangers stare at her as she walks through a room?

"DO THEY? I never notice. I guess it's natural to look when someone is different from you. It's really no problem to me because my friends aren't bothered by it. I don't think you notice a person's physical defects after you become friends with him."

Frances' father, now retired, was the principal of Isaac Litton High School when Frances graduated there in 1937. She lives with her parents in Joelton and drives the 32 miles to and from work each day.

After serving as a clerical worker until 1951, she was promoted to principal stenographer and now supervises twenty girls.

ALTHOUGH her workday supposedly begins at 8 a.m., she has always arrived at the office by seven, showing her conviction that "my work comes first, so I don't have too many hobbies."

Only recently has she felt handicapped in the least. Plagued in recent years by backaches, Frances finally had to have spinal surgery and had to be away from her job for almost three months. She now uses a walker but will be able to dispense with it soon.

"I'm glad to be back at the office," she smiles up from her typing. "But I can't wait to get rid of this walker and get back to normal."

Frances loves her job, and her tiny stature doesn't interfere with her ability as an excellent stenographer.

The Nashville Tennessean
April 28, 1966

'Little People' Help Each Other Enter Big World

The Everette Herald - May 3, 1966 Wash.

THE HAMMOND TIMES

Home Newspaper of the Calumet Region

Mon., April 11, 1966

DAUGHTER Donna passes seasoning to mother.

EXTENSIONS allow Nick Michaels to drive his car.

Area Little People Active

By H. V. LUKENS
Times Staff Writer

HAMMOND—"Little people live normal lives, but often it's a little more difficult", according to Miss Sue Horkovich, 32 State St., Hammond, who is an official of Little People of America, Inc.

Some of the difficulties are in using things made for the bigger ones, and finding shoes and clothes to fit, she said.

The organization, of which the Calumet Region is District 5, helps solve these problems and promotes social life among them. It is non-profit and will hold its annual convention this July in Austin, Tex.

They will also have a get-together in Toledo, Ohio, in May, and another in Lake Forest that month. A school teacher is host for the latter. There will be a picnic in Hammond in August.

MISS HORKOVICH is secretary and bookkeeper at Goodwill Industries, Hammond, and has been there 14 years. She graduated from Hammond High School in 1952 and got her job by seeing an advertisement in the newspaper.

Her parents came here from Czechoslovakia about 40 years ago and her father worked at Pullman Standard. Both are dead, but she has three brothers and two sisters who are big people.

The Michaels family of Hammond are friends of hers and are also little folk.

Nick, the father, is a native of East Chicago. He is a tower gateman for the Chicago, West Pullman and Southern Railroad at Wsiconsin Steel in South Chicago. He will attend the convention in Austin, he said. He is four feet two inches tall.

THE MOTHER, Jean, 3 feet, 10 is a native of Chicago, and a housewife.

Their daughter, Donna (3'-10"), is a student at Hammond High School. She has graduated but needed some additional credits. She hopes to become a laboratory technician, perhaps in a hospital.

Miss Horkovich is 4 feet 3 inches tall. She said 4 feet 10 is the limit to qualify as a little person. She is state coordinator for Indiana for the national organization and invites all little people in the area to get in touch with her.

SUE Horkovich shows Donna Michaels scrapbook.

Indiana April 11, 1966

Frances Carney Expected Back

MISS CARNEY

Frances Carney is due back at her desk in the Disability Determination Section this month after a long recuperation period from a back operation.

Knowing Frances it will take more than a back operation to knock her out of action for any length of time.

She indicated recently that her operation was successful and all she needs is the OK from the doctor to return to work.

"I miss all my friends at the office and will feel a lot better when I can be back with them," she said.

All of your friends miss you too, Frances, so hurry up and come back.

Vocational Rehabilitation News
Nashville Tennessee
March 1966

LITTLE PEOPLE VISIT IN HOOKS

Mr and Mrs. Lee Wright entertained a group of Little People in their home over the weekend.

The event celebrated the birthdays of the host and Miss Jacqulyn Hester of Dallas.

A buffet supper was served Saturday evening and Sunday morning the group attended services at the First Methodist Church.

Guests included Burre Billingsley of Tyler; Miss Frances Perkins, Misses Mary, Nita and Louisa Flores and Miss Hester of Dallas; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Gillentine and Carolyn of Longview; George Holliday of Dallas and Mr. and Mrs. Otto Douglass of Hooks.

Hooks Reporter -Texas
April 28, 1966

A Long Way Up for a Short Cut

Upon graduation from the Cincinnati Barber College yesterday, Charles Reis, 19, entered his trade as one of the shortest barbers in Ohio, but his size poses no problems. Reis, only 4 feet 2 inches tall, tackles his tall job by climbing a special platform to put him in touch with his customers.—AP.

The Detroit News
March 12, 1966

Midgets Overcome Problems In Various Ingenious Ways

(Continued from Page 3)

Richard can easily lift more than his own weight — 104 lbs.

Another field opened to midgets because of their size is aircraft maintenance. Originally hired to do work in wing-tips and nose and tail assemblies where an average-sized person would not fit, midgets are now used in all phases of the operation because they have proven themselves able and reliable workers.

Many "little people" demonstrate Gus Wayne's assertion that "We're just people" by working in jobs where size doesn't matter. Olive, who works as a keno runner in the Hacienda Hotel, is trained as an IBM key punch operator, and Richard is currently employed as a refinisher at Lucas and Sons Furniture.

When the "Little People of America" meet for their annual convention in Austin, Tex., this July, it will be a gathering of lab technicians, accountants, salesmen, businessmen, teachers — everything, perhaps, except Indian chiefs.

Not all prejudice against midgets has disappeared from employment practices, however. The Waynes moved to Las Vegas four and a half years ago because Gus felt "This is where the money is." When Olive was turned down for a job as a key punch operator with the city of Las Vegas because she was "too small," (she's four feet exactly) Gus began to wonder how wise his decision to move here had been.

"It's not that I'd expect to qualify for any job," explained Olive. "I'd never, for instance, apply for a job as, say, a policewoman with the city. But I worked as a key punch operator with the federal government for three years and I was fully qualified for this job. I just didn't see what size had to do with it, and I still don't. I can't remember ever being quite so angry as I was over that."

Being little has other frustrations, too. When Olive was a child in New Jersey, her special fear was getting lost in midwinter snow drifts. Richard commented that he always had to have a special desk built at school, and Jerry Maren remembered that his size inadvertently caused him to develop good study habits. "I didn't want to carry all those heavy books home from school each night, so I worked extra hard to finish my homework in class."

A never ending frustration is clothes. "There are two choices," said Olive. "Either buy children's clothes, or have them specially made. The first costs style, the second costs money." Special shoes, for instance, run about $50.

The mother-daughter trend in girls' clothing has been a small boon to women like Olive. "Little girl clothing that copies 'Mama' is more stylish," she says. Another accidental boon for little people was the development of stretch stockings. "You have no idea what a job it used to be to get silk stockings or nylon hose that would fit," declared Olive.

Another frustration in clothing is caused by the peculiar continued growth of midgets. Richard, in his forties, has grown a half inch in recent years. "You know you're never going to get tall enough to have it make any difference, but the frustrating thing is that you outgrow all your costly clothes. And one morning you wake up and find you can't get your shoes on." Olive, an avid bowler, is busting out of her old bowling shoes, but can't find anyone on the West Coast to make new ones for her.

Special expense is encountered in other areas as well. Cars must be specially equipped with pedal extensions; golf clubs must be scaled down; bowling balls must be lightened. Gus, a rebel at heart, refuses to be trapped in hobbies that require specially-made equipment. He fishes and does very nicely, thank you, with a regulation size rod and reel.

The Wayne home, too, is equipped with regulation size furniture and appliances. Olive's only concession is a platform in front of the stove and one in front of the sink to enable her to reach the back burners and the faucets.

Gus also points out that he is not a member of "Little People of America" because "I think it's wrong to encourage the belief that, because we are midgets, we should associate only with other midgets."

Such segregation would, in any case, be difficult to accomplish, because midgets are most often born to normal-sized adults. Jerry Maren, for instance, was the only "little fella" in a family of 10 children.

Olive and Gus have no children, but many little people do have, and more often than not, the children are normal size. In such a situation the problem of teen age discipline must be met with humor and originality. When one little lady who attended the 1960 Convention here was asked how she disciplined her six-foot tall sons, she shrugged and replied: "I just tell them, in a very firm voice, 'Lie down on the floor, I want to tell you a thing or two'!" The birth of midgets seems to be something that just happens often, for no apparent reason.

Richard and Olive were two of three midgets born in a family of nine children, where "Every third child was born a midget — now figure that one out."

Nobody has, though some researchers are working on the problem. Far from waiting breathlessly for a "cure," the little people are content with their lot, feeling that the disadvantages are balanced by the unique advantages.

"Some children and some grown-ups still make unkind remarks and have peculiar ideas about just how we're different from them. Some people still seem to think that, just because our bodies are small, so are our minds. But today people are more knowledgeable and tolerant than they used to be, and more and more they're coming to realize that we're just people — little people, granted, but people, just the same."

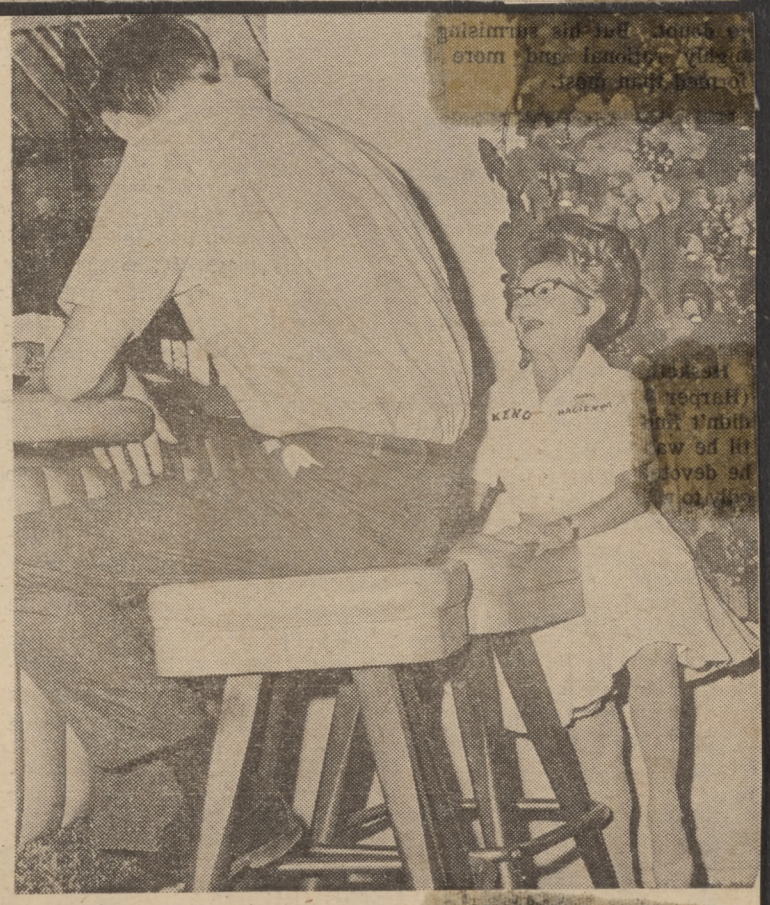
Three Las Vegas "little people" pose for a family portrait. From left is Richard Brasno, his sister Olive Wayne, and Olive's husband, Gus. Seated on a desk top, four-feet tall Olive finds her feet way off the ground.

A bell captain rides a weary Dan Turner and Billy Barty out to their cab on luggage carriers after the four day convention of the "Little People" here in 1960. About 500 people attended that convention, the largest turnout the organization ever had.

Las Vegas Sun
May 15, 1966

Jerry Maren kneels on the drink rack of a dice table to throw the cubes as he and other members of the Little People of America enjoy some gambling at their four-day convention in Las Vegas in 1960. At left are Bill Albaugh, national representative of the soft-drink firm Squirt and dubbed "Little Squirt," and his wife, Maria. In center is Marjorie Bourassa, and at right is Dan Turner, the association's vice president. (See

The smaller the shoes, the greater the cost, little people have found. Original lasts and the first pair of specially made shoes cost about $50. Price drops a bit with each additional pair of shoes.



During a break, Olive ponders ways to join a friend at the bar. "It's a good thing most places have booths," she says.

Official Memorandum

By

JOHN CONNALLY

Governor of Texas

AUSTIN, TEXAS

GREETINGS:

Little People of America, Inc., is composed of people who, for one reason or another, are considerably smaller in stature than most. Members are from all parts of the country and represent nearly every occupation or employment, but they are all less than four feet, ten inches in height.

The general purpose of LPA is to provide fellowship, interchange of ideas, solutions to the unique problems of the little person and moral support.

Because small children seem to gain as much or more than their elders from contact with other small children, LPA has a special program for them.

The 1966 National Convention of Little People of America, Inc., will be held in Austin July 18-21, and District 8, made up of little people from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas, will be hosts.

THEREFORE, I, as Governor of Texas, do hereby designate the week of July 18-24, 1966, as

LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA WEEK

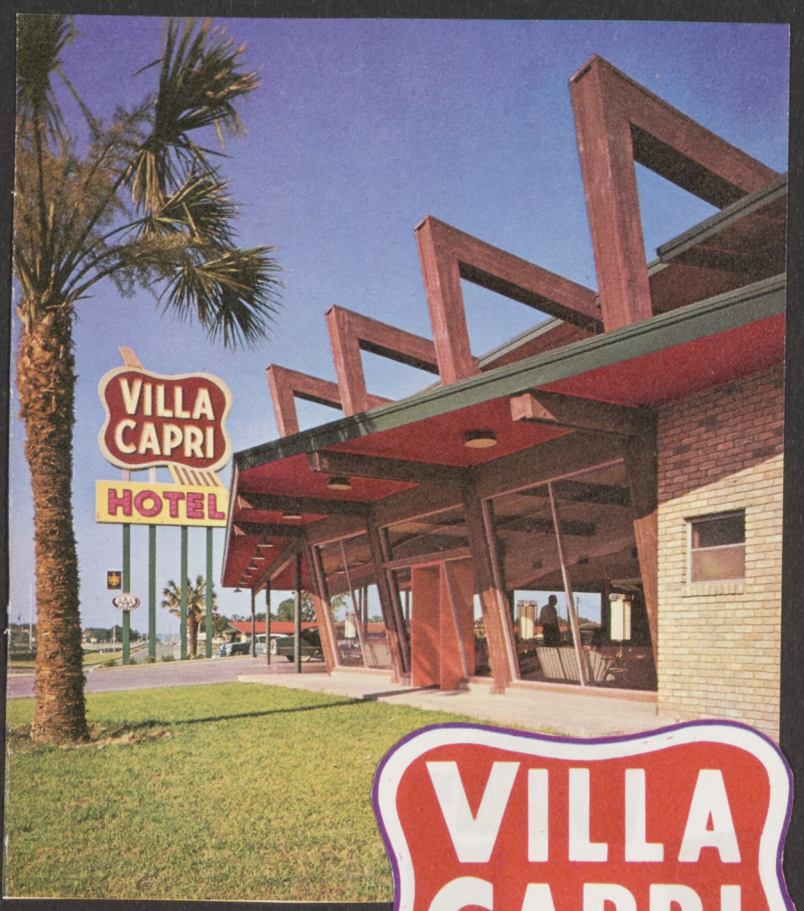
in Texas, and urge appropriate recognition thereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this 28th **day of** June, **19** 66

John Connally

Governor of Texas

← Green River Boat Tour
L.P.A. National Convention
July 18 - 21 Austin Texas 1966



VILLA CAPRI

AUSTIN, TEXAS

At Villa Little People Convene

The Little People of America, an organization of persons under 4 feet 10 inches tall, will vote on a new constitution Tuesday morning in the second day of its national convention here in Austin.

Gathered at the Villa Capri for a four-day convention, the LPA is hosting about 150 delegates from across the nation.

Lee Kitchens, national president of LPA from Richardson, Tex., proposed the new constitution in the opening meeting Monday, stating that the LPA needed to promote the development of "little people's" talents so that they could take more leadership in their communities.

On hand for the 8th annual convention is Billy Barty, founder of the LPA. Barty began organizing the group while on tour with Spike Jones in 1957.

Monday evening the ladies at the LPA convention presented a style show emphasizing the special needs of small persons.

After the vote on the new constitution Tuesday morning, the LPA delegates will vie in a baseball game—eastern delegates versus western delegates. They will spend the evening at Green Shores.

The St. Louis Globe Democrat
St. Louis, Missouri ... July 5 1966

We carry frequent mentions here of the Tip Toppers, social club for long, tall guys and gals. Now for the other side of the coin. There's also an organization called The Little People of America Inc., and Miss Harriet R. Hoppert, one of its district chairmen, will be in our town next Saturday through Monday at The St .Louis Gateway Hotel to spur interest in the organization in this area. Pint-size movie actor Billy Barty sort of started the whole thing by getting a group of little people together for a meeting in 1955 to discuss their problems of getting along in a big world. Nowadays the organization holds national conventions and makes a habit of "thinking big" about life in general.

BILLY BARTY

Children as well as adults are helped "to set realistic, attainable goals," according to Miss Hoppert, who is a teacher for the Milwaukee Public Schools and has no trouble keeping her young charges in line even though she is just 4 feet 2. She'll be happy to hear from both adult and junior "shorties" or parents of exceptionally short children while she's here.

What Lent Means to Me

By ANDRE BOURSSE

Herald Examiner

Senior, Sun Valley Polytechnic High School. Recent Recipient Pro Deo et Patria Boy Scout Award. Secretary Teenage Group, Little People of Hollywood, Member Valley Lutheran Church.

Once a year marks the most noble event in the history of mankind — our Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross to save the people of the world from our sins.

Andre Boursse

Lent is the season when we should all be thankful that God is able to forgive the sins of our daily lives.

Just to think mentally of the third day when Jesus rose again inspires me and is a living joy.

I think of Jesus as the most powerful and unique man God ever put on this body of land. Unique in a way that no man will ever be duplicated like that again. Not even science could produce such a dynamic figure as Jesus Christ.

When I go to church I am not going just because my friends are going, but to recreate and reason in my mind the time Jesus Christ gave up His life to save us from our sins.

Herold Exainer

Thursday, July 28, 1966 Priced 10¢ Copy

LOCAL PEOPLE RETURN FROM LPA CONVENTION HELD IN STATE CAPITOL JULY 18-21

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wright and Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Douglass have returned from attending the 8th annual convention of Little People of America, Inc., Austin, in which a record attendance of 175 was noted, with District 8 (Texas & Louisiana) having the highest number present, 69.

Wright, chairman of this district, also convention chairman, was crowned King of the Convention at the climaxing banquet. Mrs. Anna Dixon of Hollywood, Calif., was crowned the queen.

Lee Kitchens of Richardson was re-elected LPA president with Charles Bedow of Owatonna, Minn., vice-president. Bedow is a son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Wright.

Among the highlights of the convention were a baseball game between the East and West, a bowling tournament, a fashion show for the ladies and children, a talent show, Bingo, a ride on the paddle wheel Riverboat Commodore, a barbecue on the beach at Green Shores, a Western Day celebration including the Sheriff's Posse Rodeo and squaredance and a banquet which was followed by the awarding of trophies for bowling, Western Favorites, Prince and Princess (under 12), Teen King and Teen Queen and finally the crowning of the 8th Annual Convention King and Queen.

Arriving by plane to accompany the Wrights were the Eastern Public Relations man and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. George Baehm, III of Great Neck, Long Island, N. Y. Accompanying the Douglasses was their grandson, David Douglass of Bedfrord, Texas.

Next Year's convention will be in Hollywood, Calif.

The Wrights were accompanied home by the Baehms, Miss Hazel Ford of New Orleans and their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bedow.

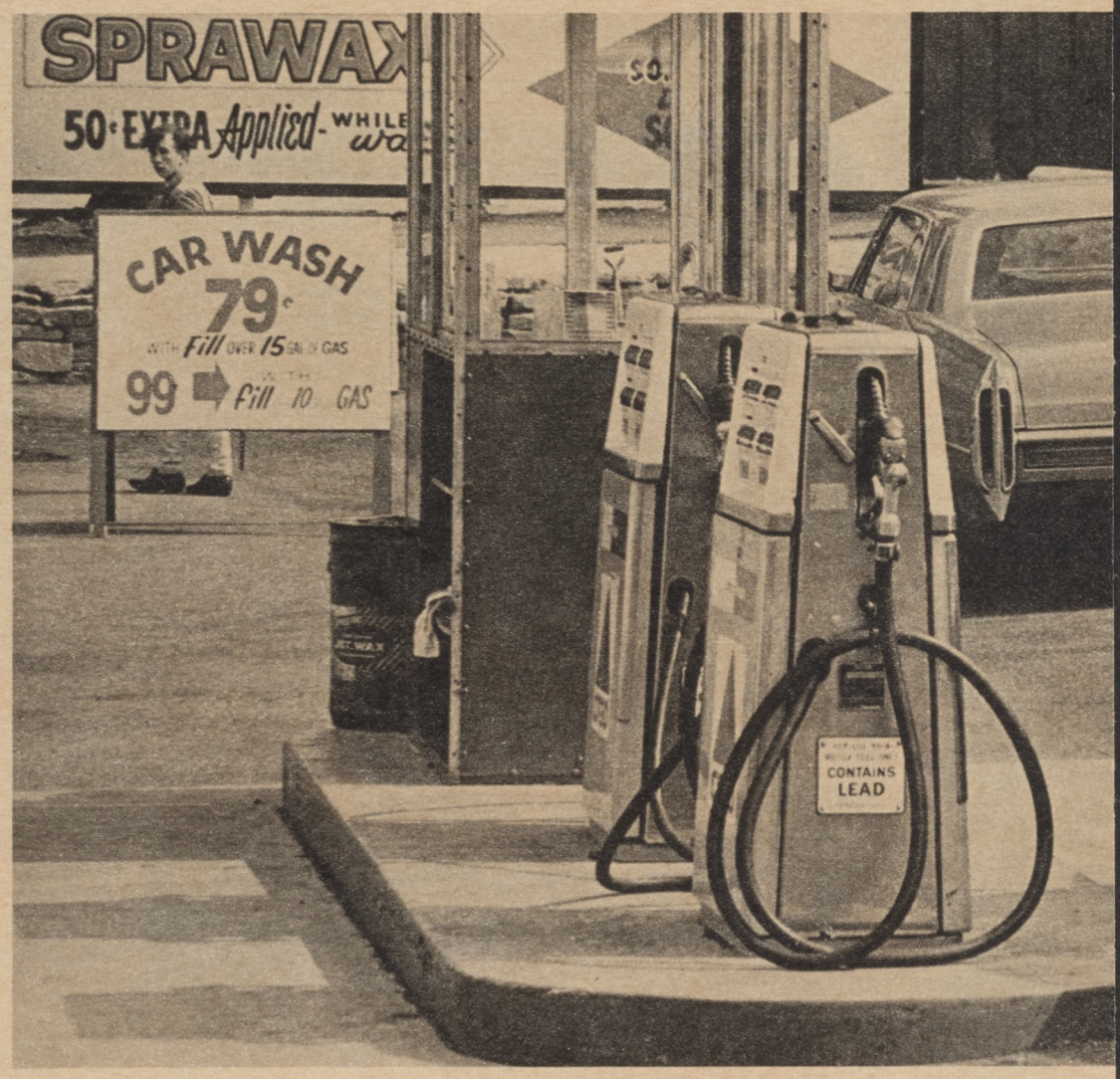
Pictured are delegates who attended the recent Little People of America, Inc., convention held in Austin.

Hooks Reporter - Hooks Texas July 28, 1966

The little They're Thinking BIG Now

Four-foot-tall Dwight Raski, 23, of Minneapolis, works as a waiter at the Sparkle Cafe, 1302 E. Franklin St. Born to parents of normal height, he has a younger brother who is 3-feet-6. Another brother and a sister are of normal height, however. Raski said he had no problem finding work suited to him. "I knew I was going to be short all my life and that I would just have to live with it," he said.

Juan Garcia, 28, of St. Paul, works as an attendant at the Highland Car Wash, 1985 Ford Pkwy., St. Paul. Garcia, who stands 4-feet-2, has three brothers and three sisters, all of normal height. He previously worked as a doorman at the LaCasa Coronado, a Mexican restaurant.



Minneapolis Tribune Photos
By AL ROYCE

Four-foot-two Margaret Kokx, 21, of Minneapolis, comes from a family of normal-height parents and six brothers and sisters. Earlier this year she learned to operate a power sewing machine at the Minneapolis Society for the Blind from May Johnson (left), industrial training supervisor. Miss Kokx, who previously did telephone selling, said she pitied herself because of her height until she realized there were others with much more serious handicaps than hers.

UNTIL RECENTLY, midgets and dwarfs—"little people" as they like to be called—have had to depend heavily on show business for employment. Today this is changing. The little people are hard at work demonstrating that, given a chance, they are just as efficient and competent workers as persons of normal size. In the Twin Cities area, as across the country, little people have found their way into a variety of occupations, some of which are shown on these pages. Much of the credit for the changing image of little people is due the Little People of America, Inc., an organization founded in 1960 by showman Billy Barty, himself a little person. At monthly LPA chapter meetings, members help each other with their problems and encourage themselves to "Think Big," the group's apt motto.

Minneapolis Tribune - July 31, 1966

People:

Dale Hardie, 35, of Minneapolis, assembles hearing aids at Willoughby Electronics, 5013 Penn Av. S. Hardie, who is 4-feet-8, has parents and a sister of normal height. Having worked previously as an addressing machine operator, he said he has had no problem finding employment. Hardie is vice-president of the Twin Cities chapter of Little People of America, Inc.

Four-foot-four Dave Eckerman, 19, of Richfield, works nights at Northwestern National Bank processing special accounts. Mornings he attends Metropolitan Junior College, studying business administration. His parents and seven brothers and sisters all are of normal height. At right, he talks with Dave Osterhout, assistant manager of the special services department at Northwestern National.

Mrs. Roy Carlson, 35, of Minneapolis, met her husband at the first meeting of Little People of America in the Twin Cities. Standing 4-feet-7, she does dressmaking in her home. Prior to her marriage she ran a bookkeeping machine at Northwestern National Bank. She was born to normal parents and has five normal brothers and sisters.

Roy Carlson, 43, of Minneapolis, is a custodian at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church. Carlson, who stands 4-feet-4 and worked previously as a janitor at National School Studios, is president of the Twin Cities chapter of Little People of America. Like his wife, Wanda, he was born to normal parents and has six normal brothers and sisters. The Carlsons have no children.

A Little Lady Who Thinks Big

BY FILOMENA LEA
Star Women's Editor

School bells will ring next month at the Browning School, 5575 N. 76th St., and second graders will file into Harriet Hoppert's room to begin the fall term. (They all want to be in Miss Hoppert's classroom.)

Strangers peaking in will have to look long and hard to find Miss Hoppert. She's only four feet, two inches and sometimes the kids are taller than she.

But there's no mistake as to who is leading the band of attentive students. The moment she calls roll, her husky, earthy voice will bellow through the room and visitors can spot her with no difficulty.

Miss Hoppert, a 90 pound dwarf, wears a twinkle behind her glasses. She's got brown hair and blue eyes and thinks nothing of curling up into a chair. Anyway it's the most comfortable way for her to sit since her feet can never touch the floor when seated in an average size chair.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, she is the sixth district director of the Little People of America, Inc., an organization formed in 1955 aimed at providing fellowship and solutions to the peculiarly unique problems of small people, including dwarfs and midgets.

According to statistics there are over 2,000 dwarfs and midgets in the United States. "Some say there are five and six thousand," Miss Hoppert says. Of these, 600 are paid members of the Little People of America, Inc.

"In my district which encompasses Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri, we have 36 paid members," she adds. "The main objectives of the national organization are several. First of all, it gives us the opportunity to exchange ideas.

"For instance," Miss Hoppert continued to explain, "we can get tips on driving a car with extensions made expressly for us. Women can get tips on buying shoes. You know, it's not easy to find size four shoes," she said pointing to her diminutive feet. "And I have big feet compared to others who need size one and two shoes."

Another function of the Little People of America group is to acquaint parents of dwarfs and midgets with the group's parents' auxiliary.

Many people, including parents influenced by Hollywood slapstick, do believe that dwarfs and midgets are only qualified for circus work or show business. Some even think they have to support and care for these children for life. "Our organization hopes to erase this image," Miss Hoppert states.

Short people do have shortcomings, the elementary school teacher admits, "but we can do anything our taller friends can. We can bowl, swim, play tennis, golf, ski, ride bikes, even fly our own airplanes.

"We do try to watch out diets, though we can eat like everyone else. About the only problem we do have is to try to be independent."

This can be tough at times, she confesses, but the organization was formed to help little people solve these seemingly inexplicable matters.

For instance, Miss Hoppert illustrates, "we have trouble using a phone in a booth. Now due to some quick thinking, we've devised a handy gadget that will reach the dials for us. It should be available to us soon.

"I guess we are one of the few organizations trying to eradicate itself. We are pooling all our efforts to find medical solutions to shortness in this era of physical beauty.

"We also make every effort to raise the hopes and aspirations of teenagers who are either dwarfed or midget size."

Formerly of Sheboygan, Miss Hoppert comes from an average sized family of three brothers and two sisters. "I also have 11 nieces and nephews who are all average size."

Fortunately her childhood was never marred for her size. "My family always felt I should do the best I could, but many families cannot adjust themselves as easily as mine."

One of the best things that happens to her because of her size is to realize friends are not aware of her height at all. "When I have to run as they walk. I know they've forgotten my size."

Listing some of the everlasting problems little people are confronted with, Miss Hoppert mentioned not being able to use mirrors in rest rooms. At home she has a stool she carts along with her from room to room, but when out she doesn't have access to it.

Buying clothes is forever a problem. She wears a size seven and there's no end to hemline shortening. "The new mini skirts, bless them, are just right for me."

Ironically, Miss Hoppert sleeps in a king-size bed. She laughs as she tells she got it without ordering it.

Shopping for groceries in a super market poses a few more problems. "I can never reach the top shelf and inevitably what I want is always on the top shelf. However, the store managers know me and are extremely helpful. They were even kind enough to offer a stock boy to fill my order if I had all the items listed."

The nicest thing about belonging to the Little People of America is being able to be among others of the same size. "We're so used to being in the minority in large crowds, it's fun being together with short people.

Male members have the chance to help another adult; to help a woman with her coat as an example."

Defining the words dwarf and midget, Miss Hoppert stated, "We've become a medical bonanza. Dwarfs don't like to be called midgets and vice versus. A dwarf is best described as a person with stunted growth. He has a normal trunk, whereas a midget is proportionately small and also tends to be a little taller."

Before becoming a certified teacher, Miss Hoppert worked as a leader for the Girl Scouts of America. "My family lived on a farm and I enjoyed Girl Scouting activities so chose to go into it on a full time basis."

Later she taught in Sheboygan for eight years and at the moment has almost completed her requirements for her master's degree from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Midgets and dwarfs, she says, can be anything but tall. "Our organization, which is based on size and brings people together from all economic, education and interest areas, emphasizes this.

"Years ago, I used to leave the room or look in another direction when a short person was scoffed at or was the brunt of jokes.

"Movies gave people the idea we were to be laughed at. That we were freaks. And people responded, 'I'm people what are you'. But much of this has been blotted out."

Although, she indicates there are some states which have laws on height. "People have to be five feet, two inches in some states."

A member of the Business and Professional Woman's Club, Miss Hoppert also writes and paints. She is a little lady who thinks big. A small person can live in two worlds — a small world and a normal world, and still find happiness. She found out, and hopes she can help others like her through the efforts of the Little People of America, Inc.

Being Short Is No Shortcoming if one adjusts and accepts being far less than average in height. A dwarf, Miss Harriet Hoppert, 7719 W. Hampton Ave., has proven it to herself and is equipped to prove it to other dwarfs and midgets as district director of the Little People of America, Inc. Glancing at a scrapbook of the group's national activities, she is shown with her niece, Chris Hoppert and nephew, Philip Hoppert, daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederic M. Hoppert, 2207 W. Ludington. (Star Photo)

Milwaukee Star
August 18, 1966
Milwaukee Wisc.

Little People Like To Think Big

By David Hale

Tammy Sue Kipp is a real heart breaker.

With her green eyes, lustrous red hair and outsize personality, she stands out in any crowd of her peers. She can do whatever any 6-year-old can do — except reach a door knob.

For Tammy is 2 feet 3 inches tall. She is a dwarf, one of the rarest kind —one in a million, says her mother, Mrs. Barbara Kipp, a statuesque 5-foot-2 blonde.

As a dwarf, Tammy automatically is a member of the nation's smallest minority group. There are an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 persons in the United States who meet the qualification by being 4 feet 10 inches or less in height. The national average is 5 feet 8.2 inches for men and 5 feet 3 inches for women.

Along with about 1,000 others Tammy is on the mailing list of one of the most exclusive clubs, Little People of America, Inc., the 12th District of which is currently holding a convention in the Fresno Hacienda Motel. Children with problems similar to Tammy's are, in fact, one of the major reasons for the group's organization in 1957.

As the littlest, Tammy is, not unexpectedly, the pet at the local gathering of about 100 Little People. More surprising, in a world in which "The Norm" is worshipped, she is also a big hit elsewhere, too. A few years ago — and in some circles today —she might have been hidden away.

"One of our biggest goals," says Billy Barty, 3-foot-9 television and night club personality and the acknowledged founder of the club, "is to educate other parents to be like Tammy's. They don't shelter her. They let her live — as much as she can — a normal life.

As founder of the organization, Barty automatically is a big man in Little People of America. He is also one of the brightest examples for little littles (children). Like many dwarfs, he was born to "regular size" parents. Perhaps "because nobody ever told me I couldn't," he was forward enough to fit into movies at 3, in vaudeville as a teenager. He likes to tell about lettering (at 80 pounds) in football at Los Angeles City College and in basketball at Los Angeles State College.

Today he is seen on national television both as comic and actor, but for two years his principal job has been as master of ceremonies in a Los Angeles children's TV show. The secret of his success? "I don't talk down to them."

Is there anything Barty cannot do?

"I guess I couldn't play on a professional basketball team," he laughs. "We tell our children the only space barrier we have to conquer is between our ears. We are at the point as an organization that we have educated ourselves; now we just have to convince the rest of the world."

Medical profession knows little about dwarfism, beyond classifying the varieties into three general types —pituitary, the cretin and achondroplastic. Pituitary dwarfs are perfectly proportioned but smaller people. The most common the achondroplastic — has normal size torso and head but short arms and legs. But if medicine has overlooked the little people, the public at large has for centuries (and still does, LPA officials say) regarded them as curiosities. And the objects of the curiosity are not afraid to talk about their adjustment difficulties.

"People stare and call you 'Shorty' or 'Kid'," says Bob East of Oakland, the district chairman. "They'll also say 'I hear the circus is in town. Are you with it?"

Little people have what one physician calls a "visibility" problem. Size automatically associates them with court jesters from medieval times, or carnival attractions today. Partly to avoid that image little people increasingly shun show business.

"Proving to people that we are capable is the big rub," says East. "What people don't know is that we have every occupation you can think of represented in the club. Our national president, Lee Kitchens of Austin, Tex., is way up the ladder in this electronics company. He even flies his own plane."

"And believe it," exclaims Barty. "We still have cases where doctors say 'Your baby is a dwarf, therefore he will be mentally retarded, too. We don't relate intelligence to size in big people, do we?"

But there are models for the little littles closer at hand. East, for one, is a mechanical engineer ("We make anything; right now I'm working on a thing to make aluminum beer cans"); Lola Cox, 81, 4-feet-1½, once was one of the Toys in the Toyland Exposition of 1915 in San Francisco, but she retired after 35 years as a print company proof reader and income tax consultant.

Predictably, nothing more arouses the ire of little people than the tendency of employers to automatically pigeon-hole them as handicapped persons. Earl Warr of Goodyear, Ariz., is one of the best-known contradictions.

"Used to be in the circus, tight-wire act," he says. "World War II changed all that. The Air Corps called to train as a mechanic. I worked in the wings, nose, places where a regular-size man couldn't reach. In this group of regular guys, I was first a head mechanic, then a supervisor then an inspector.

"Nowadays, all the aircraft companies employ us. We've proven we can do just about as well if not better than the other guy. We don't need sympathy; it's just a matter of selling yourself."

There are younger exaamples, too. Andre Boursse, 18, of Sun Valley at 4-foot-6, is one of the leading gymnasts at Los Angeles Valley College. He has also been a Little Leaguer and an Eagle Scout. He is studying for a degree in business administration.

Boursse sums up the agony of the adolescent who feels "different" as well as how the LPA helped.

"All my life I'd been awkward around people," he says. "You're in a world apart. Then you meet someone else your size (he has: she is 3-feet-11) and it's like someplace else, you know?"

Darlene and Dorene Howsden, 19-year-old twins of Hayward, also had social problems caused by height (4 feet 1 inches). Now, perhaps because of the confidence supplied by LPA associations, they think, Darlene is a clerk at the U.S. Treasury Department in San Francisco, Dorene, a stenographer at the Alameda Naval Air Station.

Bobbi Owen of Chowchilla, also credits the organization for bringing her out of the shell.

"I was the only little person in this little town in Oklahoma," she says. "I never saw another one until I was 28. I found out about LPA when a friend wrote me from New Mexico."

What is it like as a little person? Judging from their conversation you learn to endure stares, being confused by the store clerk with that chubby 9-year-old down the block. You would have trouble reaching light switches or pay telephone slots (West has fashioned equipment to overcome that challenge). As an adult you would choose a ground level home and, contrary, to popular belief, you would not saw the legs off the furniture.

The club is far from dreary group therapy. Conventions feature bowling tournaments, dances, talent shows, and king and queen contests. A $5 membership fee provides for a monthly newsletter.

Its leaders hasten to explain that LPA is not a lonely hearts club — that the numbers merely provide a genuine choice for persons who might otherwise accept the first chance. Nevertheless, one estimate has it that 100 marriages have resulted, usually from acquaintances which blossomed at national conventions.

The biggest problems (where to buy clothes, especially shoes; how to choose a profession) may soon be summed up in club booklet. A television documentary to inform the public about the problem of dwarfism is being prepared by Barty ("They're not prejudiced," he says, "they just don't understand.")

Because few little littles are sought for adoption the association also wants a home for unwanted children. So far, says East, in a project for which Mrs. Anna Dix of Los Angeles is largely responsible, 100 such tots have found homes.

Mrs. Kipp, an attractive blonde, sums up the heartbreak as well as satisfactions, explaining how she raises two "normal" children and Tammy.

"I've fought since the beginning to keep her," she said. "Doctors at first gave us three months. Then they said she would never walk, but we had her dancing almost as soon as she could move.

"They said she would be a vegetable, that she would never talk. Now you can't shut her up. Private schools would not take her; they said the facilities would not suit her. So we put her in public schools. At first the other kids would come and stare at her in the room. Now, thank goodness, she stands on her own two feet."

Partly because she feels that no one comprehends the agony the "big" parents of little littles often feel, Mrs. Kipp has been active in the LA chapter's pilot program, Parents Auxiliary, which beings together non-club member parents, "so they will not think they are alone."

Such parents — those of children whose size is caused by an often curable pituitary gland defect — will do anything to get medical aid. Mrs. Kipp can do nothing when the ordinarily sunny Tammy asks 'Why am I little" but reply "God made different kinds of flowers for variety, so he made different sizes of people. You are just one of the little ones."

Mrs. Kipp might also hope her child adopts the perspective of Luana Shelton of Burbank, a young grandmother and a hospital payroll clerk.

"We have a salesman who has to duck to come through the door," she says. "I catch myself staring at him sometimes, too. I think it's probably harder on him than it is on me."

Or the cheerful acceptance of a laughing group of adults gathered at the motel newsstand. The source of the merriment: A paper back book entitled "The Spy Who Was 3 Feet Tall."

BUILT-INS—Bob East, chairman of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of Little People of America, Inc., shows off the special extensions he fashioned for the foot controls of his automobile.

The Fresno Bee
Fresno Calif.
Sept 4, 1966

Chicago Tribune
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER
FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1966

Midget Has Big Role in Home

Hoosier Goes with Sale of Property

[Continued from first page]

the Union county area and nearby places.

"A lady who worked at the gas office was an elocutionist. She was a friend of mine, and she gave me lessons for several weeks. Then I had an entertainment here, and with the money I made I went to the Indianapolis Conservatory of Music and took a course there.

"I would do the comics, old maid conventions, and things like that. I got some money from it, and the rest of the time I donated my services to churches and groups which put on the entertainments," she said.

Everybody Is Kind

Hazel can never remember a time when people were anything but friendly and kind to her. Even in grade school the janitor used to get her a box every day to rest her feet on, because naturally they didn't touch the floor.

For 30 of her 74 years, diminutive Hazel Lathrop, pictured with Mr. and Mrs. Loomis Wilson, has been housekeeper in the 137-year-old Wilson home in Liberty, Ind., while living in her own home across the street. [TRIBUNE Staff Photo]

The Wilsons took her to Florida on a vacation three years ago, and they've invited her to come there and live with them if and when they sell the house and move.

But Hazel's roots are here, and her friends. She can't imagine living anywhere else. She makes her own clothes. She likes to take care of the DuBois house, now the Wilson house.

Hazel doesn't like to cook, and she doesn't have to. She lived alone for years after her mother died. Then last April an old school friend needed a home.

"I told her to come stay with me," said Hazel. "She loves to cook, and I just let her do it. That suits me fine."

Midget Plays Giant Role in Hoosier Home

BY JOHN R. THOMSON
[Chicago Tribune Press Service] 1966

Liberty, Ind., Aug. 25—There is an elegant 137 year old home for sale here, and whoever buys it is going to get more than just a residence. He's going to get Hazel.

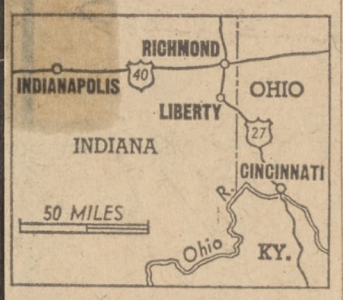
Hazel Lathrop, 74, is 3 feet 11 inches tall, and she has taken care of the house and its owners for more than 30 years.

"Hazel goes with the house," said Mr. and Mrs. Loomis Wilson, who hope to sell the home, give up the antique business they started after retiring from school teaching and administration, and move to Florida.

There Since 1913

Hazel lives in a house just across the way. She's lived there since her parents bought it in 1913, and she inherited it when her mother died 11 years ago at the age of 87.

The Wilson house is known in Liberty as the Pigman house



or the DuBois house. After all, the Wilsons have only owned it 11 years, hardly long enough for it to be known by their name.

The two story frame home, with nine rooms and four baths and a 32 by 16 foot living room and many unusual features, was built by Dr. Garrett Pigman back in 1829.

Despite the rigors of life in those days, Dr. Pigman survived to a ripe old age, and on his death the house passed into the hands of another physician, Dr. Franklin DuBois.

Helped in Office

"I kept office for Dr. DuBois when his wife went out of town or when she was busy with other things," Hazel said. "I also took care of the house. When Dr. DuBois died and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson bought it from his estate, I started taking care of it for them."

You might think that being a midget, and particularly being the only midget in Liberty, would have soured Hazel's outlook on life. Well, you might think so, but you couldn't be more mistaken. Hazel has had a full life and, she says, a happy one. Everyone here knows her and it is safe to say everyone is her friend.

The smallest woman in Liberty, Ind., is full of life and surrounded by friends. Hazel Lathrop does not care to live anywhere else, even Florida. That is why she "goes with" a house for sale. This is the sixth in a series of articles.

Thomson

Hazel was born in Wayne county, near Richmond, and her parents moved to Liberty when she was 3. She was an only child. She quit school after the 8th grade and went to work.

She's been the sitter for more babies than you would ever think were born in Liberty. She worked in the creamery. Once she left Liberty and toured in Ohio and Kentucky with a carnival for seven weeks.

Had Boy Friends

"I enjoyed it but then mother took sick and I came home to take care of her. I took care of her until she died. I had boy friends and could have got married, but my mother had been so good to me it never occurred to me to leave when she needed me," Hazel said.

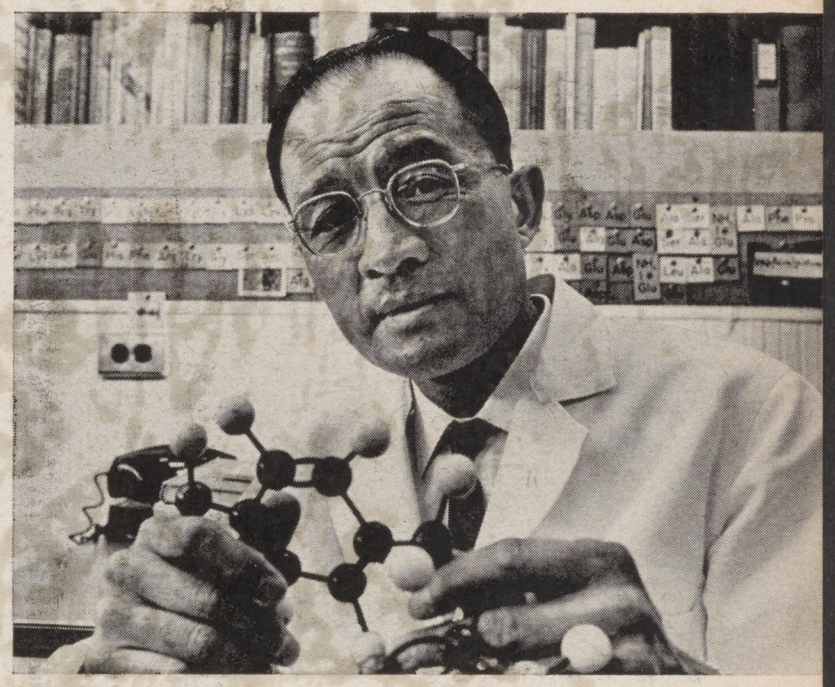
At one time Hazel was, of all things, an elocutionist and she performed quite extensively in

[Continued on page 4, col. 1]

Chicago Tribune
Aug. 25. 1966

SCIENCE

Code That Controls Growth



In his California laboratory Dr. Li explains a molecular model of another hormone that he isolated, ACTH, which is used to treat arthritis.

The diagram shown here, somewhat resembling a suburban bus route, solves an old scientific mystery—and one day may lead to a new medication to prevent children with faulty pituitaries from becoming dwarfs. It shows the precise chemical composition of the human growth hormone (HGH), a vital substance secreted by the pituitary gland. The analysis of HGH was completed by Dr. Choh Hao Li (*above*), the China-born endocrinologist at the University of California who first isolated the hormone a decade ago. While he and his associates were identifying the 188 amino acids that make up the huge molecule, other researchers were discovering that sustained treatment with HGH can add inches to the height of pituitary-deficient children. Since the natural hormone is extremely hard to come by —Dr. Li and his team had to collect the pituitaries from 5,000 cadavers to obtain a thimble-size stockpile—his next step is to try to figure out a way to synthesize it by putting all the proper components together in just the right order.

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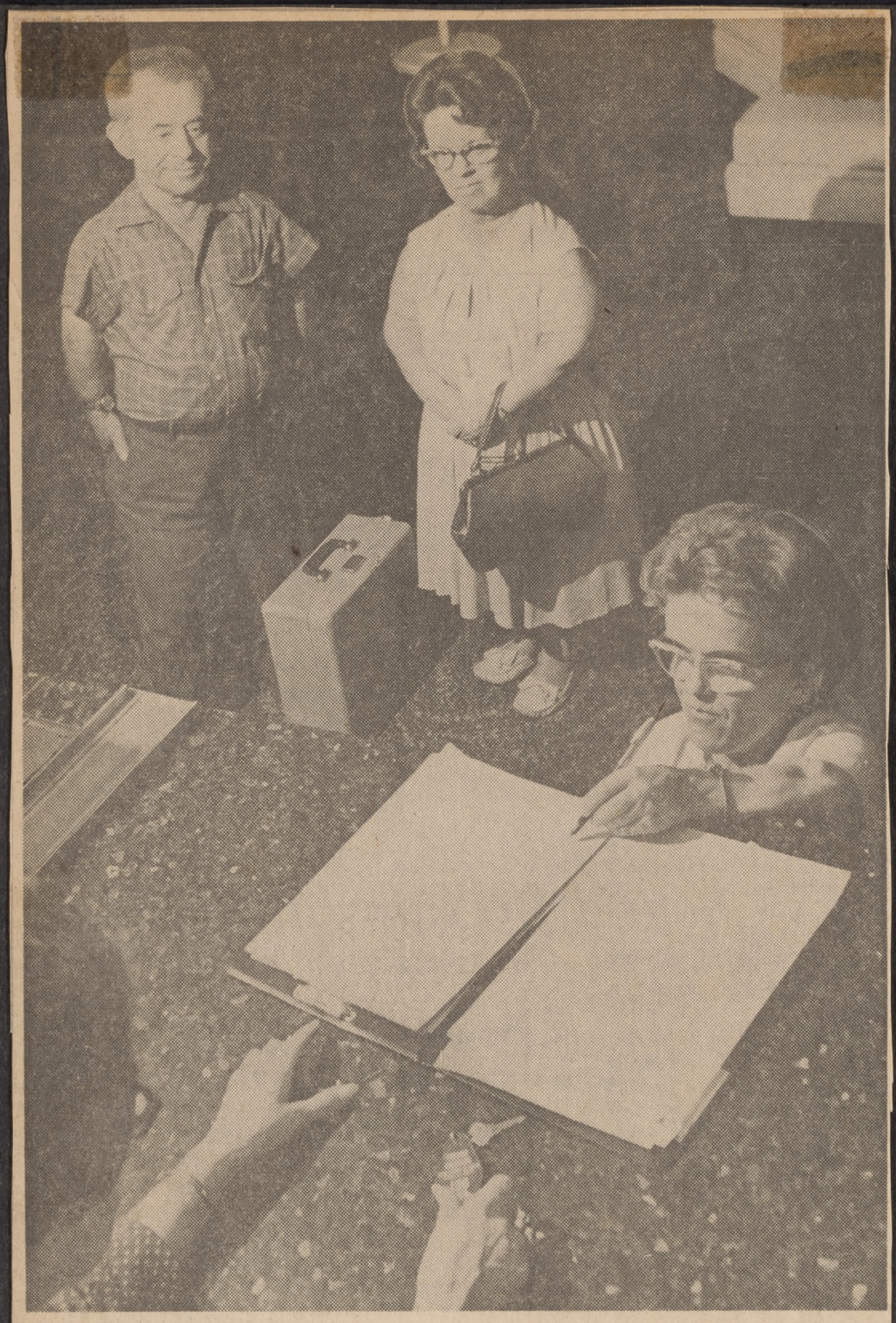
The Fresno Bee

Sept. 4, 66



Bee Photos by Edward C. Nold

SIGNING UP—Measuring up to the physical obstacles in a world designed for conventional sized persons often is simply a matter of stretching her 4 feet for Bobbie Owen of Chowchilla, as in registering for the district convention of the Little People of America, Inc. Waiting their turn are Mr. and Mrs. Earl Warr of Goodyear, Ariz.

INSIDE STORY—Dorene, left, and Darlene Howsden, identical twins from Hayward, get in some light reading during a lull in convention activities.

REACHING TALL—Mrs. Albert Anderson of San Bruno demonstrates a device for adjusting to one of life's biggest nuisances—untouchable slots, light switches or elevator buttons.

YOU AND WHO ELSE?—Facing up to a close shave at second are umpire Fuldio (Foo) Parenti of Mountain View and Felix Silla of North Hollywood. Teams will vie today for a trophy. Parenti is a watchmaker and jewelry setter. Silla is the bewhiskered Cousin Itt of TV's "The Addams Family."

Midland Family Hosts Unique Meeting Of Area 'Little People'

LITTLE PEOPLE'S CONVENTION—Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Billingsley, 1801 W. Louisiana St., pose with daughters, Barbara, 16, and Sandra, 12, at Saturday's convention of Little People of America. The Billingsleys will play host to the group through today.

By CLINT KELLEY

A unique convention continues at the J. P. Billingsley home here today.

Its participants come from throughout West Texas and represent a variety of occupations and professions.

The only common bond is that each of the convention members is under four feet 10 inches tall.

The Billingsleys are weekend hosts for a district meeting of the Little People of America organization. More than 20 members had assembled at the Billingsley home, 1801 W. Louisiana St., Saturday night and more are expected today.

"We have a great organization here," Billingsley said. "Our whole purpose is to help little people overcome their problems.

"Some of us have emotional problems caused by our lack of stature. We find that meeting others on an eye-level basis often helps overcome an inherent shyness and that our members will be more at ease around 'large' persons."

The Midland sessions are designed to promote a West Texas Chapter of the organization. Convention members include Lee Wright of Hooks, chairman of the Little People's District 8—an area which encompasses Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

There are 128 members in the district.

"We have quite a number of little people in West Texas," Billingsley said. "And we are finding more each day. That's the reason we called this meeting."

Little People of America was organized in 1958 by actor Billy Barty, the diminutive sidekick of television's "Peter Gunn."

Billingsley is quick to point out, however, that only 6 per cent of the nation's 7,000 plus little people are in show business.

"At one time show business was the only type of work little people could find," he said. "Now, however, there are little people working in every imaginable profession.

"And a lot of this progress can be traced to the Little People of America. We push education and attempt to get every little person to use his talents to upgrade himself.

"Our motto is 'Think Big' and I might add also to 'act big'."

The meeting began here Saturday and will continue through today.

The Midland Reporter-Telegram
Sept 4, 1966

The Burbank Review
Sept 28, 1966 Burbank Calif.

Burbank REVIEW 9/28/66

Twins win most unalike fair prize

By CAROL WOLFF

Gordon White has dark brown hair, brown eyes, freckles and wears glasses.

Alan White has light brown hair, blue eyes, no freckles and does not wear glasses.

Gordon is 4 feet, 7 inches tall. Alan is only 3 feet 1 inch tall — and won't grow much taller. He is what the Little People of America call a "little, little" person.

But the 11-year-old sons of Mrs. Mary White, 227 S. Glenwood, are fraternal twins and they have the proof to show it. Their birth certificates and three trophies for each year they have captured first place in the "Least Look Alike" fraternal twins contest at the Los Angeles County Fair.

The twins contend that "their differences" have actually made them "closer than other twin brothers and sisters."

"We don't like the same things, except TV and comic books," Gordon said, "but we couldn't be separated."

About the only time the brothers are separated is in school—St. Finbar's in Burbank.

"I'm too small to go into the sixth grade," Alan said, "so I have to wait another year."

"Anyway," he laughed, "my big brother is the smarty in the family."

Gordon is a straight "A" student, who "hates to do homework."

His brother Alan "gets by with B's."

Gordon wants to be a scientist.

"I think maybe I want to be an astronomer or chemist," he said. "Maybe I'll be both," he said, after thinking it over.

His bedroom is filled with chemistry sets, a microscope and two telescopes.

Alan has not decided what he wants to be yet.

One minute he talks about being "an entertainer," the next minute about being "a train engineer."

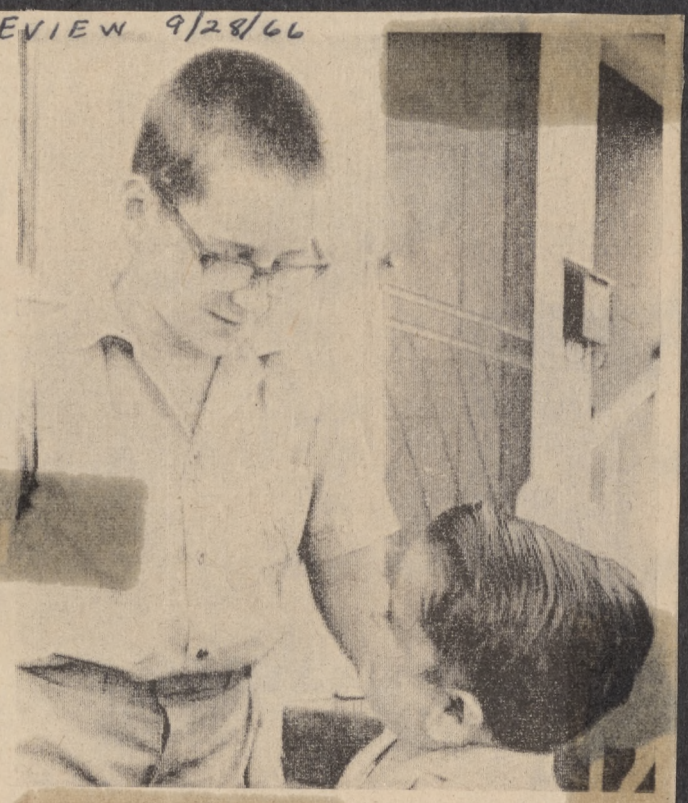
He has had two years of drama lessons, and has been asked to join a circus or to go on television, but he has to wait until he is 18.

Alan is a district chairman of the Little People of America, and plans to attend the national convention in Hollywood next year. He has been a member for five years.

He and Gordon attend the Little People of America's square dances every month at Plummer Park.

Mrs. White wants to adopt "a little, little girl." Alan said it "would be nice, but only if she adopts a little, little boy, too."

The family is by no means complete with just Alan and Gordon. There are three fish aquariums, two dogs, guinea pigs, and a chameleon — everything to keep a mother busy.



Twins — Gordon, left, and Alan White

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